DCCA dedicates its first canoe house. PAGE 3
Tinian mayor: Complacency not an option. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'KCHC closing a disservice'

» Palacios weighs approaching DPL to revoke CHCC grant of public domain

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation after a five-hour session believes it is appropriate to conduct an investigation on the recent closing of the Kagman Community Health Center.

Palacios

The delegation in yesterday's lengthy session discussing other matters said they see it fitting that the delegation start conducting investigations on the recent shutdown of the sole healthcare provider in the Kagman area, with Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) even referring to it as a "disservice."

"Two members [along with the other delegation members] concurred that we should have something official coming from the delegation because KCHC is on Saipan," said delegation chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan)

See KCHC on Page 4

ERWIN ENCINARES

Reps. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), left, and Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) review a bill as Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), right, converses with Rep. Blas "BJ" Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan) during yesterday's Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation session.

NMDC wants ownership of businesses established on public land

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. wants ownership of businesses established on CNMI public land.

Last Saturday, NMD-related organizations came together to discuss the third draft of Senate Bill 20-35 with Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan). The third draft of the bill proposes the extension of public land leases from 40 years to 55 years in consideration of the five existing hotels (Mariana Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, and Grandvrio Hotel) that will soon max out their lease.

According to NMDC president John Gonzales, NMDs are not in fa-

See NMDC on Page 4

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Members of the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., the Chief Aghurub Foundation, the Women's Affairs Office, and numerous other NMD-related organizations gather to discuss Senate Bill 20-35 last Saturday at the Garapan Center of Development.

DESPITE DISTRICT COURT'S NUMEROUS WARNINGS

Owner of defunct Dynasty still can't afford to retain lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Despite receiving numerous warnings from the U.S. District Court on the consequence of failing to retain a lawyer in connection with the lawsuit filed by its former foreign workers, an officer of the owner of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino still appeared at a hearing last Friday without a counsel.

Chun Wai Chan, director of Tinian Dynasty's owner, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. (HKE), appeared telephonically at the status conference.

Chan informed U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy that they do not have the resources to hire a lawyer.

Kennedy reiterated that the law says a corporation must have counsel to represent them.

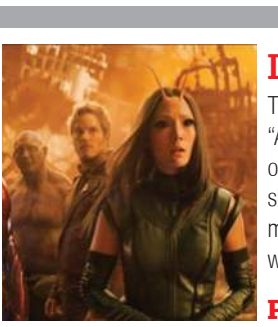
Kennedy stated that Eric F. Dona and co-plaintiffs have filed their motion to strike the answer of defendants HKE and Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. to the lawsuit.

See OWNER on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Mary Grace D. Jacot, president and CEO, SET Pacific Inc., was named the 2018 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year.
PAGE 8

NATION
A group of Central Americans who journeyed in a caravan to the U.S. border resolved to turn themselves in and ask for asylum Sunday in a direct challenge to the Trump administration.
PAGE 15



LIFE & STYLE
The superhero smorgasbord "Avengers: Infinity Wars" opened with predictable shock-and-awe, earning $250 million in box office over the weekend.
PAGE 20

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Local

Torres: MIF a success

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres dubbed the 23rd Micronesia Island Forum as "very successful" during the final day of the forum last Friday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The forum concluded with all leaders signing off on five resolutions regarding transportation, health care, labor, and climate change, including a resolution on tackling invasive species who threaten the region as whole.

Torres attributes the forum's success on those five resolutions.

"…It's putting out a message that we are unified; we may not have the same landmass as the United States or other countries, but if you look at our water rights and our waters together, then we have a greater percentage that we should take care of and [address] these issues as a whole, collectively," said Torres.

The three-day forum went on starting from April 25 until April 27, 2018, as they discussed key issues such as the healthcare situation in Micronesia, the threats of climate change, the worries on invasive species, the problems on labor scarcity, and more.

"…We are here to acknowledge that [there are issues] and we are here to take care [of it]," he said, referring to a resolution on invasive species on Guam that have already affected Rota as well.

"...Our main goal here is to build that relationship—that it is okay to address our concerns, that it is okay to sit down, and that we should sit down and address our concerns. As our economy grows, we should be able to go out and expand, and assist our neighboring islands—our brothers and sisters—so that they too can grow, as we grow ourselves," he added.

According to Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, the forum had "different kinds of influences," which included presidents and island nation leaders who have represented in world bodies such as the United Nations.

"We worked together to try and see what we can do to resolve some issues and then also looking forward to other opportunities," he said in an interview after the forum.

Calvo said in a previous interview that the 23rd forum is possibly his last as his second term as Guam governor ends this year. Despite that, he said he is looking forward to attending the future MIFs as a citizen of Guam.

As the 23rd MIF ended, the members voted Yap to be their host for the 24th MIF.

The MIF was attended by Palau President Tommy M. Remengesau, Federated States of Micronesia President Peter M. Christian, Republic of Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine, Chuuk Gov. Johnson Elimo, Pohnpei Gov. Marcelo K. Peterson, Kosrae Lt. Gov. Carson K. Sigrah, Yap Lt. Gov. James Yangetmai, Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, and CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

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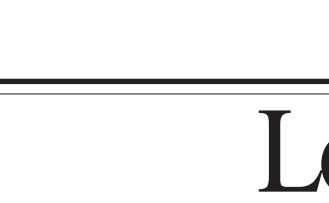

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MAY 2018

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

MAY 5, 12, & 19, 2018 (Saturdays) 6:00pm-10:00pm
MAY 26, 2018 (Last Saturday) 6:00pm-11:00pm

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018

5:00 p.m.	Sunset Cruisers
5:15 p.m.	Opening Ceremony
6:30 p.m.	TBA
7:00 p.m.	Poksai Guma Chamorro
7:30 p.m.	Tiuel Belau
8:00 p.m.	Refaluwach Warriors
8:30 p.m.	Saipan Music & Dance Studio Cultural Dance Philippine Cultural Dance
9:00 p.m.	Tasi and the Aliis
10:00 p.m.	Closing

Entertainment subject to change.

FOOD CONCESSIONAIRES

- Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
- Coral Ocean Golf Resort
- D'Elegence Restaurant
- Fiesta Resort & Spa
- Furusato Restaurant
- Herman's Modern Bakery
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- Kanoa Resort Saipan
- Kensington Hotel Saipan
- Kinpachi Restaurant
- Matty's BBQ
- Pacific Islands Club Saipan
- Sierra Pearl Shake
- Terry's Snack Bar
- Thai House
- The Hut
- Tony Roma's/Capricciosa
- Tropical Chills

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- Saipan Brewing Company

2018 CNMI TOURISM MONTH

"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

Proclamation Signing
May 1, 2018

Governor Ralph Torres will officially declare May 2018 as CNMI Tourism Month with a formal proclamation signing ceremony at 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill. The Marianas Visitors Authority and industry partners will be there to witness the occasion.

Roadside Waving
May 18, 2018

Marianas Visitors Authority in collaboration with the MYWAVE Clubs will be doing a roadside waving in celebration of Tourism Month on May 18, 2018. Students will be waving at their respective schools from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"See My Marianas" MYWAVE Club Island Tour
May 25, 2018

The Marianas Visitors Authority will collaborate with the MYWAVE Clubs to give a glimpse of the inner workings of the tourism industry. The student will get a special bus ride to the major tourist sites along with a visit to a local hotel and the Marianas Visitors Authority office.

"See My Marianas" Graphic Design Contest

Marianas Tourism Education Council and the MVA are holding a Tourism Month 2018 Graphic Arts Design Contest titled "See My Marianas" for CNMI students in grades 6-12. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2018. For contest guidelines and a release form, visit www.mymarianas.com. Submissions must be an original digital design with the words "See My Marianas" featuring a site/location in The Marianas that the artist recommends people to visit. Entries should include the name of the site/location, and a brief 1-4 sentence description of the site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on the public as randomly selected community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics. The questions and answers will be featured regularly via local media.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did you know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99, KCNM-KZMI, and KKMP.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

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For more information contact
MVA at telephone: (670) 664-3200/01
Email: mva@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com

DCCA dedicates its first canoe house

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs last Thursday officially opened the canoe house that will feature traditional Chamorro and Carolinian canoes under the Seafaring Traditions program.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The large canoe house built to house the traditional Chamorro and Carolinian canoes under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Seafaring Traditions program is finally open.

As part of the 37th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival opening ceremony last Thursday, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs hosted a dedication ceremony for the canoe house that has been under construction for several months.

The canoe house is only the first of many canoe houses that DCCA plans to construct under its Seafaring Traditions program.

"This canoe house…will house the first sakman and this, by no means, will be the end of the program; this in fact is the beginning. We look to building more canoe houses …that will be available to the community for teaching, fishing, ceremonies, and community activities," said DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter.

Hunter believes that the completion of the canoe house and the launching of the program is what the island needs to preserve the island's indigenous culture and to also entice tourists to learn about it.

"We are people descended [from] a canoe culture and these activities instill pride in us, in our community, and pride in our youth. It enhances our community and also enhances us as a visitor destination," he said.

After the dedication ceremony, dignitaries and members of the community made their way to the main stage of the Flame Tree Arts Festival to officially kick off the festivities.

The festival's opening ceremony also paid tribute to nine local artists who have passed on. These artists dedicated their lives to perfecting their art and sharing that art with the community.

The artists were the late Kevin Taimanao Atalig, late Balbina Quichocho Dela Cruz, late Barry Alan Wonenberg, late Enrico "Heinz" Staffler, late Carmen Matagolai Toves, late Kilroy Clyde Igisaiar Fitial, late Shane Donovan Metauligh, late Carmen Gaskins, and late Francisco M. Norita.

Registration drive nets 152 new voters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission's voter registration drive at Marianas High School and at the Flame Tree Arts Festival was able to obtain 152 persons.

CEC election register clerk Robin Sablan said yesterday that there were 74 persons, mostly students, who registered at MHS last Thursday.

Sablan said during their three-day registration drive at the Flame Tree Arts Festival, from Thursday to Saturday, they were able to get 78 voters.

Sablan said as of yesterday, excluding the 152 new registered voters, there were a total of 16,987 registered voters in the CNMI.

The general election will be on Nov. 6, 2018.

He said they are also planning to hold registration at Mt. Carmel High School on Saipan, at Laolao Golf Resort in Kagman, Tinian High School, and on Rota.

CEC is reminding students and members of the community to bring a copy of their birth certificates as certified by the court, a valid U.S. passport, or naturalization documents to show proof of their citizenship.

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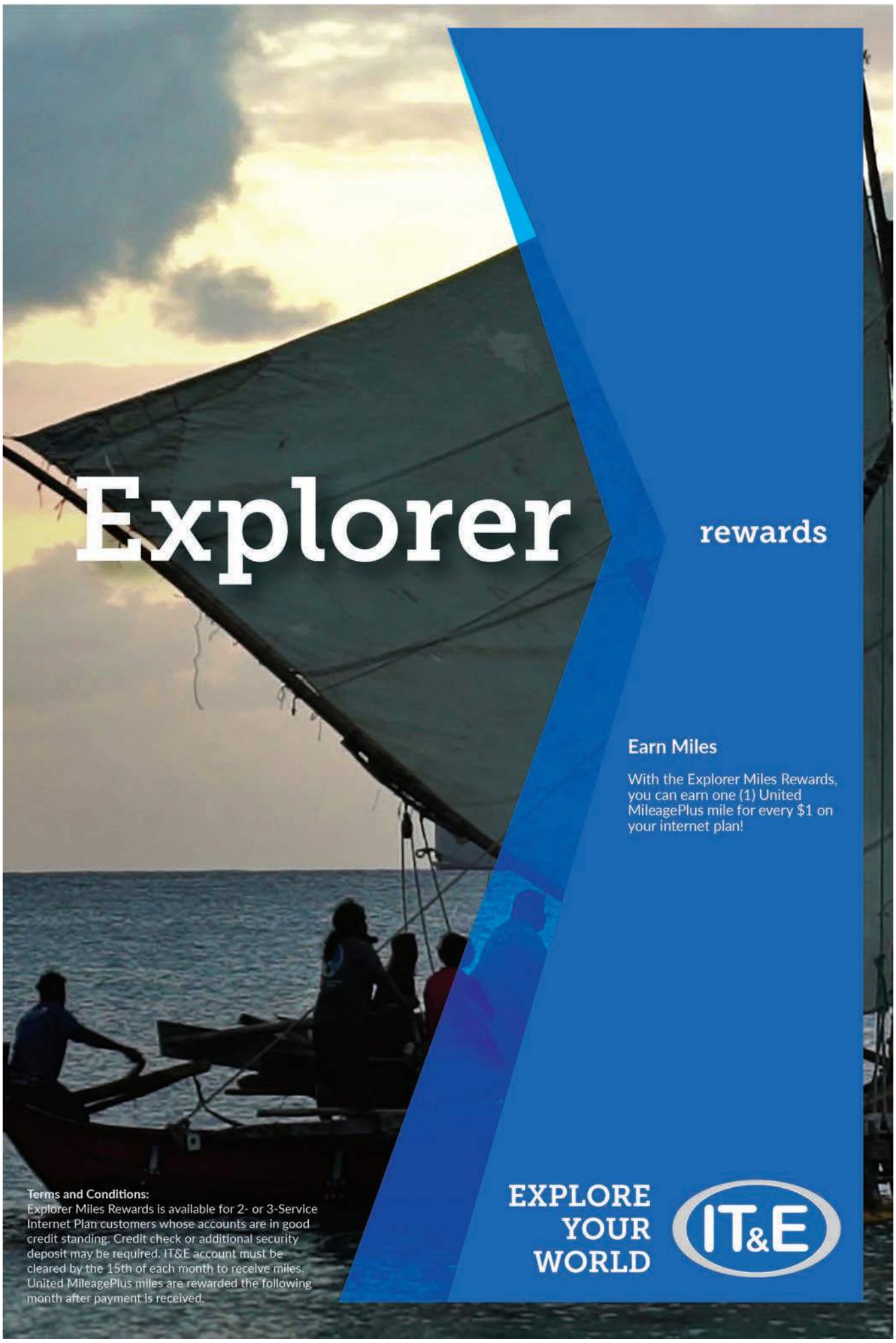
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US probation officer sues to clear title of Sadog Tasi land

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. probation officer Margarita DLG. Wonenberg has filed a lawsuit against three persons to clear the title of a piece of land containing 2,831 square meters located in Sadog Tasi, which she claims her sister transferred to her last December.

Wonenberg is suing Seung Bae Hong, Soon Hyung Lee, and Ki Ha Lee, and all of their unknown assignees, heirs, devises, grantees, creditors, and spouses.

Wonenberg said Hong and Soon Lee and Ki Lee, are all Korean citizens, who were at one time residents of Saipan.

Hong is allegedly the current or former lessee to a long-term lease of Wonenberg's land (premises) by an assignment dated Dec. 31, 1996.

Soon Lee is allegedly a current or former lessee, in part, to a long-term lease of the premises by a partial assignment in June 1997.

Ki Lee is allegedly the current or former lessee to a long-term lease of the premises by an assignment, possibly executor, dated Nov. 27, 1997.

Wonenberg, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, asked the Superior Court to enter a judgment declaring that she effectively terminated the lease pursuant to its terms for the material breach of the lease by the defaulting defendants Hong, Soon Lee, and Ki Lee, due to unsecured nonpayment of rent after proper notice.

She asked the court that the title of the land be quieted in her name free and clear of all liens or encumbrances.

Wonenberg sought the court's order that any and all parties claiming any rights of possession other than complaint be ejected from the land.

She asked for payment of court costs and attorney's fees pursuant to the lease.

According to Hanson in the complaint, Wonenberg, a widow, is the current fee simple title-holder to the unimproved parcel of land in Sadog Tasi, Saipan.

Hanson said Maria Dolores Deleon Guerrero Synder, the sister of Wonenberg, was the fee simple owner of the premises until she transferred all of her right title and interest to Wonenberg by quitclaim deed executed by Synder last Dec. 8.

In 1992, Synder allegedly entered into a ground lease with Kim Mi Sook and Lim Myeong San for the long-term lease of the premises.

Hanson said Wonenberg is the successor of Synder's interest as lessor to the lease.

Hanson said the lease provides for monthly payments in escalating amounts beginning May 6, 1992 and continuing monthly through the stated expiration of the lease on May 5, 2047.

Through a series of assignments, the lawyer said, the last recorded assignment that was in November 1997, the lessee's interest in the lease was assigned to one or more of the defaulting defendants who may still have an interest in the lease.

Hanson said the lessees made rent payments under the lease through December 1992.

Hanson said from December 1992 through the date of this complaint, lessees have failed and refused to pay the rent due pursuant to the lease.

Last Feb. 7, Wonenberg posted a notice of default on the land visible to the public from the public right of way adjoining the premises.

Two days later, Wonenberg sent copies of the notice of default by registered mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of each of the defaulting defendants for failure to pay rent.

As of the date of the filing of this complaint, Hanson said, in an amount of time exceeding the 30-day notice provision of the lease, none of the defaulting defendants, has responded to the notice of default.

Wonenberg then executed a notice of termination of ground lease last April 2.

Hanson said Wonenberg as the sole fee simple title-holder is entitled to have the court quiet title in the premises in her name against all those who have may advance a claim of an interest in the premises.

KCHC

From Page 1

on the matter in an interview.

Sablan disclosed that the delegation would be summoning both the KCHC and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to find out what transpired between the two prior to the former's closing.

"We all know that the [KCHC's] inception…has availed valuable services not just to the community of Kagman but to the surrounding areas…many of our constituents in the community have availed of its services," said Palacios.

"I was hopeful that the [chief executive officer] of CHCC and the director of [KCHC] would be able to work out their differences in terms of who is running KCHC. Obviously that didn't work out," he added.

Palacios stated that he was considering approaching the Department of Public Lands to request them to "revoke the grant of public domain it issued to CHCC and reissue the grant of public domain to KCHC."

Delegation committee on Health and Welfare Vice Speaker Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) said that in a recent meeting with the CHCC CEO Esther Muña, she found out that KCHC's closing had "nothing to do with CHCC."

"…It's the doctor at KCHC that decided to close the center," Maratita reported to the delegation of her recent meeting with Muña. She added that she would be meeting with Muña in a closed-door meeting late afternoon yesterday.

Maratita said in a brief conversation yesterday that KCHC was reportedly closed down for training since April 27, 2018.

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) said when he learned of KCHC closing, he tasked House Health Committee chair Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), who then reported to the delegation that the CHCC board has reportedly instructed the CHCC CEO not to close the clinic.

"…The position of the board on that is they do not want [KCHC] to close down and they really laid it down to her that they want the clinic to [continue operating]. Whatever is going on between the CEO and the director of KCHC…is internal," he said, adding that he reportedly received assurance from a CHCC board member that they instructed Muña not to close KCHC.

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), who is vice chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, said that he concurs with Palacios on conducting an oversight and fact-finding on KCHC and CHCC.

Getting heated, Igisomar believes there is "…incompetence and irresponsibility happening."

"Whose mess [are we] supposed to clean up again?" asked Igisomar, adding that he was aware that it was their duty as legislators to address such issues, but it "frustrates [him] that it occurs."

"We will go ahead and listen to [them] because it is very irresponsible; KCHC provides 100 percent payment on Medicaid, and a lot of people go there for that, and we need that center," he said. "Somebody's got to fire somebody," said Igisomar, adding that "this should not have happened and it should have gotten this far."

KCHC reportedly to schedule clinics June 2018

According to a statement from Muña, the KCHC closed not due to conflicts, but under the prerogative of Dr. Katherine Elstun, who is currently the KCHC medical director.

"During our conversation with Dr. Katherine Elstun on April 30, 2018, we learned that the nonprofit organization is cancelling clinics all week and that they will not be scheduling clinics until June 2018," Muña said.

Elstun reportedly closed the clinic since April 27, 2018 for "training."

"As the medical director of KCHC, we expect that she is in the best position to understand her patients' health needs," Muña said.

Muña added in a statement that CHCC is required by law to put in place management controls immediately after the expiration of the Federally Qualified Health Center grant, which is scheduled to expire yesterday.

A federal law mandate requires CHCC to impose management controls immediately after the expiration of the FQHC grant. According to her statement, the CHCC has already completed an initially physical inventory of clinic assets.

"[Health Resources and Services Administration], the grantor, has communicated guidance and instructions to CHCC in the disposition procedures. One of the most important management requirements is the safeguarding of the assets to prevent loss, damage, or theft," said the statement.

Regarding land disputes between CHCC and KCHC, the statement said the two would be meeting today to discuss the "new entity's needs."

"…Including the AG's opinion on what CHCC can provide to KCHC. CHCC has also met with the employees of CHCC-KCHC to discuss the change of ownership. CHCC is committed to the health of the entire CNMI and will assist in the smooth separation between CHCC and KCHC."

NMDC

From Page 1

vor of the bill because NMDs are under-benefited with the current public lands lease agreement.

"The over-arching position was that to keep the 40 years because if they're all expiring, lets sit down again and negotiate the next 40 years… We believe the current arrangement of 40 years under represents us… and under benefits us because the money doesn't directly benefits us," he said.

What NMDC wants is to negotiate new terms with current or interested lessees that include direct benefits to NMDs.

"A competitive, marketing proposal, will be entertained… our other position, was to make sure that our NMDs have a better direct stake in the renewal of or execution of this new 40 years… We want to look to the examples of the native Indians of the U.S. They own, for example, the franchise of Hard Rock Café and a few of the casinos and restaurant chains in the U.S., they own it because of the land and they own the businesses but they hire management firms to run them…so why can't we look to that example and engage in that kind of business, innovative partnership… where we own the land…and hire management firms to run these businesses," he said.

According to Gonzales, another term NMDC is proposing is direct stock ownership of the established business in exchange of public lands or allocate a percentage of profits for every year to NMDs.

"We are in dire need of culture. Why can't we have our NMDs be presidents of these hotels, be presidents of these restaurants, of these investments? Why can't we when many of our NMDs are well educated? Why can't we give them leadership opportunities to run the businesses?" he said.

OWNER

From Page 1

The magistrate judge said plaintiffs also filed a motion for entry of default and default judgment.

Chan stated that he did not understand the wording and that he needed to find out more about the motions.

Kennedy advised Chan that he could not respond, but if he retains an attorney, that lawyer would have a certain time to respond to the motions and there may or may not be a hearing.

Kennedy explained that the court may issue a decision without a hearing.

The magistrate judge emphasized that HKE and Mega Stars could not proceed in this matter without an attorney and that the court may be left with little choice but to grant plaintiffs' motion if there is no counsel to represent defendants.

Chan replied that he understood.

Kennedy told plaintiffs' counsel, Samuel Mok, that she will file a report and recommendation to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood about the matter.

In plaintiffs' motion, Mok asked the court to strike defendants' answers to the complaint and enter default and default judgment against HKE and Mega Stars in an amount of damages to be determined at a hearing.

Mok said HKE and Mega Stars are not represented by counsel despite receiving several warnings from the court that the consequence of failing to retain legal counsel could be the striking of their answers and entry of default and default judgment.

Further, Mok said, defendants have made clear they do not intend to retain legal counsel due to lack of funds.

Last February, Chan disclosed that the total outstanding liabilities of the owner of Tinian Dynasty has now climbed to over $250 million, excluding the $75 million in civil penalty assessed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

Chan revealed that HKE's outstanding liabilities is continuously increasing due to late payment penalties and interest.

Chan disclosed Tinian Dynasty's outstanding liabilities in his response to the court's show-cause order directing HKE to explain as to why sanctions should not be imposed against them for failure to obtain a lawyer in connection with a lawsuit filed by foreign workers over the denial of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions.

Kennedy issued the order to show cause after Chan, who appeared telephonically at the hearing, informed the court that they have not retained counsel and that they do not intend to do so because of financial inability.

Chan said Tinian Dynasty's casino operation stopped in August 2015, and when the hotel operation halted in March 2016 no more income could be generated since then.

"We ran out of money and cannot pay to all departments of government, the staffs, the suppliers, the shareholder, and the attorney we used to hire," he said.

At the Jan. 16, 2018 hearing, Daniel Guidotti moved to withdraw as counsel for HKE and Mega Stars as the companies failed to pay his attorney's fees. Kennedy granted Guidotti's motion.

Mok is counsel for Eric F. Dona and six other co-plaintiffs. There are 15 named plaintiffs in this case.

In their lawsuit, Dona and co-plaintiffs alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied to them about their immigration legal status.

Mok alleged that the owners and management of Tinian Dynasty lied that the workers were legally authorized to work notwithstanding the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

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Senate OKs urgent $15M spending bill with tweaks

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.COM
REPORTER

The Senate on Friday passed a $15-million spending bill that addresses the mold mediation of the Guma Hustisia along with a replacement of its air-conditioning system among many others with tweaks that has yet to be approved by the House.

Coined as an urgent spending bill, Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) H.B. 20-164 was amended during a Senate session on Friday to reflect several additional appropriations for Rota and Tinian. The bill seeks to appropriate $15 million from the Casino Gross Revenue Tax from this year.

A House provision of the bill reflects setting aside $3 million to a secured account for disasters and emergencies. The Senate amended that to reflect an amount of $3.5 million appropriation to be shared by both Rota and Tinian instead. Each island got $1.75 million respectively.

Under Rota's $1.75 million appropriation, $350,000 is allocated for tourism enhancement programs to be appropriated by the Rota Legislative Delegation; $150,000 for the renovation of Rota's Pinatang Beach Park under the Marianas Visitors Authority's expenditure authority; $300,000 for municipal employees not funded by the Rota Municipality; $250,000 for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects on Rota; $150,000 for the Rota Health Center interisland medical referral air transportation costs and stipends; and more allocations.

Under Tinian's $1.75 million appropriation, majority of the appropriation, specifically $1.5 million, is allocated to the Tinian and Aguiguan Local Delegation's reimbursement for their share from 702 funds reprogrammed to the Department of Finance for the completion of the Puerto Rico Dump rehabilitation for the improvement and pavement of roads at the Marpo Heights II sub-division on Tinian. Some $90,000 is allocated for 10 additional full-time employees under the Department of Public Safety on Tinian, while $25,000 each go to the Tinian DPS operations and police academy as well as interisland medical referrals for Tinian. Another $60,000 is allocated to the procurement of a van for the Tinian Office of the Aging, while another $25,000 each to the procurement of a vehicle for the Tinian Department of Public Works Tinian Building Safety Division and the procurement of a vehicle for the Tinian Department of Finance.

» Proposals to reduce Sugar Dock project funds by $500K

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) pushed for the Tinian appropriation amendment, while Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) pushed for the Rota amendments. According to her, the amendments for both Rota and Tinian were made possible through Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

"…The bill also includes and [keeps] intact the urgent request including monetary compensation to landowners whose private lands are acquired for public purpose. It is hoped that the House will accept the Senate's amendments in order for the bill to be transmitted to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for approval," she said.

A project of both Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), which had a provision to be appropriated $700,000 in the House version of H.B. 20-164 was severely cut down to $200,000 by the Senate. The funds went to Tinian and Rota appropriations.

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) included amendments that tweaked the Judiciary's request for funding to mediate their mold problem along with the procurement of new air-conditioning systems to include any necessary relocation costs. The Judiciary is allocated $7 million for this project.

Quitugua also added that a provision to appropriate $3 million for land taking compensation to include compensation of beach parks/recreational areas, including lot no. 010 D 26, lot no. 010 D 44, and lot no. 010 D 45, along with secondary roads and the 20 certified ponding basins in that specific order.

H.B. 20-164, HD3, SD1 now heads to the House for action.

CUC: No change to FAC for May

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has announced that the Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at $0.20103 per kWh for the month of May.

Although there has been a slight increase in the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing from February to May as notified by Mobil Oil Marianas, Inc., the increase did not equal or exceed a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel. Accordingly, there will be no adjustment made to the overall CUC kWh rate for the month of May.

CUC is required, pursuant to an order previously issued by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, to adjust—up or down—the FAC pass-through rate when the Mean of Platts Singapore monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the current FAC rate.

The FAC is one of two components that make up the CUC Electric kWh Rate, which is used to purchase fuel. The second component is the CUC Base Rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt service. This Base Rate has not been increased since April 17, 2014.

CUC first instituted LEAC in 2009 to recover fuel and fuel related costs, a system also used by power providers in Guam and the Virgin Islands. In May 2015, the CPUC authorized CUC to change the name of LEAC to FAC to provide customers a more accurate description of the rate.

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government which provides electric power, water, and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

VA to host town hall meetings on May 1-3

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is having town hall meetings hosted by the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System director Jennifer Gutowski. This will be to share information, hear feedback from veterans, and to answer questions on VA health care. The town hall meetings are for the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian on the following dates and times.

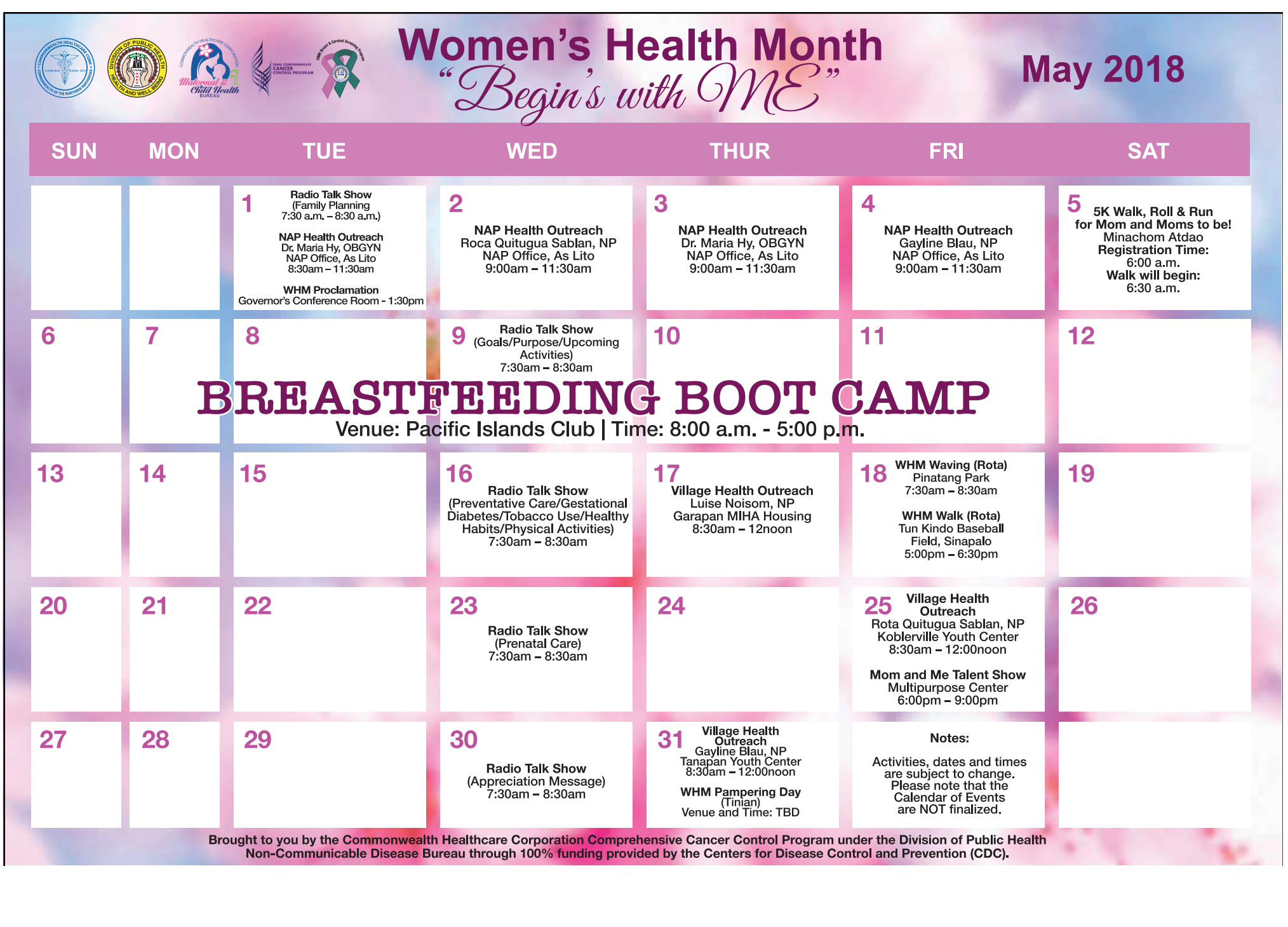
■ Saipan: American Memorial Park theater on May 1, 2018 from 5pm to 6:30pm.

■ Rota: The Mayor of Rota's Conference Room, May 2, 2018 from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

■ Tinian: The Mayor of Tinian's Conference Room, May 3, 2018 from 9:30am to 11:30pm.

All veterans, their families, survivors, and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of veterans are encouraged to attend.

Point of contact is Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***


Women's Health Month
"Begin's with ME"
May 2018
SUN
MON
TUE
WED
THUR
FRI
SAT
1 Radio Talk Show (Family Planning 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.) NAP Health Outreach Dr. Maria Hy, OBGYN NAP Office, As Lito 8:30am – 11:30am WHM Proclamation Governor's Conference Room - 1:30pm
2 NAP Health Outreach Roca Quitugua Sablan, NP NAP Office, As Lito 9:00am – 11:30am
3 NAP Health Outreach Dr. Maria Hy, OBGYN NAP Office, As Lito 9:00am – 11:30am
4 NAP Health Outreach Gayline Blau, NP NAP Office, As Lito 9:00am – 11:30am
5 5K Walk, Roll & Run for Mom and Moms to be! Minachom Atdao Registration Time: 6:00 a.m. Walk will begin: 6:30 a.m.
6
7
8
9 Radio Talk Show (Goals/Purpose/Upcoming Activities) 7:30am – 8:30am
10
11
12
BREASTFEEDING BOOT CAMP
Venue: Pacific Islands Club | Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
13
14
15
16 Radio Talk Show (Preventative Care/Gestational Diabetes/Tobacco Use/Healthy Habits/Physical Activities) 7:30am – 8:30am
17 Village Health Outreach Luise Noisom, NP Garapan MIHA Housing 8:30am – 12noon
18 WHM Waving (Rota) Pinatang Park 7:30am – 8:30am WHM Walk (Rota) Tun Kindo Baseball Field, Sinapalo 5:00pm – 6:30pm
19
20
21
22
23 Radio Talk Show (Prenatal Care) 7:30am – 8:30am
24
25 Village Health Outreach Rota Quitugua Sablan, NP Koblerville Youth Center 8:30am – 12:00noon Mom and Me Talent Show Multipurpose Center 6:00pm – 9:00pm
26
27
28
29
30 Radio Talk Show (Appreciation Message) 7:30am – 8:30am
31 Village Health Outreach Gayline Blau, NP Tanapan Youth Center 8:30am – 12:00noon WHM Pampering Day (Tinian) Venue and Time: TBD
Notes: Activities, dates and times are subject to change. Please note that the Calendar of Events are NOT finalized.
Brought to you by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Comprehensive Cancer Control Program under the Division of Public Health Non-Communicable Disease Bureau through 100% funding provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Tinian mayor: Complacency not an option

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After the U.S. Senate passed Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) Northern Marianas U.S. Workforce Act last week, hope sprang eternal for the CNMI continuing its economic revival by having a significant amount of workforce for the next 10 years.

This is especially true for the island Tinian where there are not a lot of people to fill up the needed workforce.

According to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick A. San Nicolas while S. 2325 was unanimously passed in the U.S. Senate and awaiting the U.S. House of Representatives to act on it, this is not the time to be complacent.

"I don't believe complacency is an option… through the efforts of Sen. Murkowski, Gov. [Ralph D:G] Torres, Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., and Congressman [Delagate Gregorio Kilili C.] Sablan, we are hopeful that the [bill] will be approved by the House…. I appreciate the efforts of all our elected officials and business leaders as well as the patience of our workers" he said.

"I am also encouraged by Congressman Bishop's assurances to Gov. Torres that this bill will be fast-tracked…The passage of the law provides more time for Tinian's business community to prepare for the inevitable end of the CW program. " he added.

With a population of less than 4,000, the island of Tinian has been struggling keeping businesses afloat due to lack of manpower.

"The news did spark hope to the small Tinian businesses as many faced closure due to the lack of labor on Tinian especially in certain skilled areas. We have interested parties looking to invest in Tinian but the biggest concern has always been the fact that we lack the adequate number of skilled labor," San Nicolas said.

"Seeing that there is movement on legislation certainly gives us hope that the businesses which have called Tinian their home like JC Cafe for example, can remain open and continue to serve the people of Tinian and our visitors alike. We also hope that with the passage of this bill, we can revive our casino tourism industry and invite other types of business investment that will put us on a path toward a vibrant private economy that is self-sustaining," he added.

San Nicolas said that the passage of the bill in the U.S. Senate is only the first step and bigger responsibilities still lie ahead.

"Both the business community and government need to increase their efforts to train local residents to fill positions that are currently occupied by foreign workers. While the bill's passage in the Senate is only the first step, it is a step in the right direction and I am looking forward to the bill becoming law which we hope would be a catalyst in sparking economic growth for Tinian," he added

San Nicolas sees possibilities and opportunities for the island of Tinian and its people once S.2325 is made into law.

"We hope this bill will instill confidence in the investment community to once again look at Tinian as a viable investment option," he said.

"Our leaders are always looking into providing solutions to many different issues, including those that we do not have control over such as the passage of a much needed legislation that would not only provide relief to our businesses who are dependent on foreign labor but to our guest workers whom we have come to know as our friends, neighbors, and family," he added.

NMC's top business students inducted into international honor society

Twelve Northern Marianas College business students were recently inducted to the Sigma Beta Delta international honor society at last Friday's installation ceremony held at the college's As Terlaje campus.

"We are extremely proud of the newly-inducted students and the recognition and pride they bring to NMC," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The Sigma Beta Delta honor society was established as an international organization in 1994 to provide an opportunity for faculty at institutions with regional accreditation to confer on their business, management, and administration students international recognition for their outstanding academic achievements.

Sigma Beta Delta honor society also encourages and promotes aspirations toward personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service. Through June 30, 2017, Sigma Beta Delta had installed over 450 chapters in 48 states and international while inducting 100,000 members worldwide.

NMC

Newly inducted members of the Sigma Beta Delta honor society at Northern Marianas College pose during the recently held induction ceremony. Also, in photo are interim vice president Frankie Eliptico (1st from left), NMC Business Department chair Dr. Debra Steed (2nd from left), Sigma Beta Delta administrator Geri Hofschneider (1st from right), and Sigma Beta Delta secretary/treasurer Barbara Hunter (2nd from right).

Student business majors who rank in the top twenty percent of the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral classes at schools with chapters of Sigma Beta Delta are eligible for invitation to membership in the Society.

The students who were inducted in the Northern Marianas College chapter of Sigma Beta Delta include Kimberly Ada, Jatanna Cabrera, Michelle Gibson, Jezza Guerrero, Seong Bin Lee, Simon Necesito, Timothy Tabago, Elizabeth Solito, Francis Tomokane, Roman Franklin Tudela, Vincent Tudela, and Keisuke Yoshida.

For more information about the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society, contact Geri Hofshneider at 237-6715 or visit marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Jacot named 2018 Businesswoman of the Year

TUMON, Guam—Mary Grace D. Jacot, president and CEO, SET Pacific Inc., was named the 2018 First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswoman of the Year and presented with the annual award at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 28 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Jacot was selected from seven nominees in this year's program, which recognizes businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have demonstrated a strong commitment to their community. Her photo is featured on the cover of *Guam Business Magazine's* May-June issue, which was released at the gala.

Jacot was born in Pangasinan, Philippines and with her family followed her father to Guam in 1981. From 2001 to 2007, Jacot worked in finance and loan management, constantly being recruited for higher positions and movement from Ameriquest Mortgage, then Countrywide Home Loans, then Charter Funding, which later was acquired by IndyMac Bank. In 2007, Jacot joined her husband in the electrical industry, where she soon became president and sole owner of their company after the couple purchased SET in 2010.

Throughout the past eight years, SET received the highest safety awards from the Associated Builders and Contractors Inc.—the Safety Training and Evaluation Process Platinum Award from 2010 to 2014 and Diamond Award from 2015 to 2017—as well as the 2015 Guam Contractors Association Excellence in Construction Award for the $2 million to $10 million electrical category.

Jacot

Jacot is a member of the Guam Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Contractors Association, the Guam Society of Professional Engineers, the Guam Chamber of Commerce and its Armed Forces Committee, the Society of Military Engineers and Rovers Football Club. She works with a group at St. Dominic's Senior Care, which helps with feeding elderly parishioners two to three times a month and with her family and SET staff raises money and volunteers for world and local Junior Golf Tournaments; and supports various other organizations on island.

Jacot holds a 1997 associate's in science and marketing from Kapiolani Community College and a 2000 bachelor's in finance from the University of Hawaii.

Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships for students pursuing business and related degrees at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Jacot joins the previous Businesswoman of the Year award recipients, which are as follows: Ramona L. Jones, CEO, Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc. (2017); Sophia Chu Wigsten, general manager, Hyatt Regency Guam (2016); Joann G. Camacho, director of market development, DFS Guam (2015); Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); F. Marie Calvo-Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer, Pacific Telestations Inc., which does business as KUAM (2013); Mary P. Rhodes, president, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and President, MARQ Consulting Services (2012); Joyce Quinata Crisostomo, executive director, Cars Plus and President, Payless Car Rental (2011); Anna Wang Kao, founder and president, Genghis Khan Furniture Co. (2010); Lorraine S. Okada, president and owner, Managing Consulting Services (2009); Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director, Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc. (2008); Christine Won Pat Baleto, master franchise Guam and store owner, Pacific Froots LLC (2007); and Katherine C. Sgro, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board, Pay-Less Markets Inc. (2006).

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Meghan Hickey, business editor, *Guam Business Magazine* at (671) 649-0883 ext. 126 or businesseditor@glimpsesofguam.com, or Barbie Jane Agahan, assistant advertising manager, First Hawaiian Bank at (671) 475-7908 or bagahan@fhb.com. ***(PR)***

Cook named BankGuam Holding interim president, CEO

HAGATNA, Guam—BankGuam Holding and Bank of Guam Board of Directors at its March 26, 2018 board meeting appointed Joaquin "Kin" P.L.G. Cook to serve as the company's and bank's interim president and Chief Executive Officer ,while Lou Leon Guerrero has been granted a leave of absence to run for Office of the Governor of Guam. Leon Guerrero remains board chairwoman. The appointment is effective May 1, 2018.

» Leon Guerrero on leave, remains board chair

Cook

Cook has served as the company's executive vice president and chief sales and service officer since 2016 and the bank since January 2015. He has been a director of the company since the company was organized in 2011, and has been a director of the bank since 2007.

Cook has served as manager of the bank's Compliance Department and has held other positions including assistant vice president, branch manager, and commercial loan officer, starting his career in 2001 as a management trainee.

Cook serves on the board of IP&E Holdings, the St. John's School Board of Trustees, and Make-a-Wish Foundation. ***(PR)***

UOG announces Triton Privileges program

The University of Guam proudly announces the launch of Triton Privileges—a discounts and benefits program for all UOG Tritons. Triton Privileges is the latest feature of UOG's TritonGo mobile app and provides special offers from over 50 restaurants, retailers, services, and other merchants in Guam and Saipan.

The new Triton Privileges program was developed by a team led by the offices of Integrated Marketing Communications and Information Technology at the University of Guam.

The program is free for all UOG Tritons—including current and past students, alumni and employees of the University of Guam—and is exclusively available on UOG's TritonGo Mobile app.

"Triton Privileges is a way for the University and its Privileges partners to show support for our Tritons and vice versa," said Jonas Macapinlac, UOG director of Integrated Marketing Communications. "Our partners can access and engage with an awesome customer base like our students and alumni, and our fellow Tritons can enjoy exclusive deals and offers."

Macapinlac says that UOG will continue developing new features for the TritonGo mobile app to enhance the student experience, reconnect with alumni, and reach out to the Triton community.

To get Triton Privileges, customers must update or download the TritonGo mobile app on their Apple or Android smartphone, find Triton Privileges in the menu, then register and sign-in.

Triton Privileges is available exclusively on the UOG TritonGo mobile app for iOS and Android devices. For more information about Triton Privileges and the TritonGo mobile app, visit www.uog.edu/tritongo.

About TritonGo

The University of Guam's has launched its first official mobile app—TritonGo. The app is free to download and available now from the Apple App Store and the Google Play.

TritonGo features:

- Triton Privileges: A discounts and benefits program for all UOG Tritons.
- Swimmy Triton: UOG's first official mobile video game.
- News and Events: The latest UOG news and information about important campus and University events.
- Triton Life: Find out more about student life at UOG and check out points of interest in Mangilao.
- Mobile WebAdvisor: A mobile version of the widely-used student information and services application
- Mobile Moodle: Access courses, assignments and more for your online courses.
- Social Hub: View all of the University's social media channels in one place.
- Campus Directories: Find contact information for UOG employees and departments

For more information, visit www.uog.edu/TritonGo. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF INTENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The U.S. Air Force invites you to attend the Public Scoping Meeting for the proposed Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) will host an open house public scoping meeting to discuss the proposal to construct a fuel pipeline from the Tinian seaport to Tinian International Airport, to include a booster pump house, a boom storage building, and associated infrastructure at the Tinian seaport. The Air Force also proposes to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects.

In September 2016, the Air Force completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Divert Activities and Exercises and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed December 7, 2016, which announced the Air Force decision to select the Modified Tinian Alternative (Final EIS, Section 2.7, page 2-52) and specifically the North Option (Final EIS, Section 2.5.2, page 2- 28), as a future Divert location. After the ROD was signed in December 2016, the Air Force conducted further evaluation of the fuel requirement and associated infrastructure, including the feasibility of different alternatives that were not considered in the original EIS. The Air Force now proposes to construct a fuel pipeline to transport fuel from the seaport to the airport, and associated infrastructure at the seaport, rather than using fuel trucks for fuel transfer. In addition, recent reconnaissance surveys of the routes proposed for Divert-related vehicles, and coordination with Tinian leadership, indicate the existing surface road network is inadequate to support heavy vehicle traffic required for Divert activities, and is in need of improvements. Therefore, the Air Force also proposes to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Air Force will prepare an SEIS, which will assess the potential environmental consequences of the proposed infrastructure improvements on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING. The public is encouraged to attend an "open house" scoping meeting to learn more about the proposal and assist the Air Force in scoping issues to evaluate in the SEIS. The meeting will be arranged in a "come and go" format with no formal Air Force presentation or opportunity for public testimony. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting; your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making more informed decisions. Please drop in anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on May 17, 2018 (ChST) at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria. A Chamorro/Carolinian interpreter will be available at the scoping meeting to assist with translation of meeting materials and written comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT. The Air Force welcomes comments, suggestions, and relevant information on the proposal. Please submit comments in English at the public scoping meeting, by visiting www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com, or contacting Ms. Melissa Markel! at the address below. Address comments to:

Ms. Melissa Markel!, AFCEC/CZN
Attn: Tinian Divert SEIS
2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

The Air Force also welcomes comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800) regarding the identification of or effects on historic properties. If you have comments or would like to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process, please visit the project website or contact Ms. Melissa Markel!, AFCEC/CZN at the address above.

To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft SEIS and the Section 106 process, please submit comments by May 31, 2018.

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETING WITH WANG GUAN INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT (SAIPAN), LLC

Tuesday May 08, 2018, 9:30AM
BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room
Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan

Meeting Facilitator: Ms. Janice E. Castro, DCRM Director

PROPOSED PROJECT:
CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT UNIT APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN NAVY HILL

Pursuant to NMIAC § 15-10-201, the Wang Guan International Investment (Saipan), LLC, has requested a pre-application meeting with the CRM and CRM Agency Officials. Wang Guan International Investment (Saipan), LLC, is proposing to construct eight two-story apartment buildings in Navy Hill, Saipan. The purpose of this pre-application meeting is to discuss the proposed activity, to provide the applicant with information pertaining to CRM program goals, policies, and requirements, and to answer questions the applicant may have regarding the CRM program and its requirements. The meeting will be informational in nature only and no determinations shall be made by CRM Agency Officials at the meeting or based on information obtained during the meeting.

Project Contractor:
He Guo Qiang
Yantze Corporation

The following shall serve as the agenda for the meeting:

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Executive Session
V. Discussion on Proposed Project: Construction of Eight Unit Apartment Buildings in Navy Hill
VI. Adjournment

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

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NOW $13,999*

2007 FJ Cruiser, V6
Manual, 6-spd, 4WD, Red, Mileage 60,105, STK#U17-133T
WAS $17,599
NOW $14,999*

2014 Toyota Yaris, FWD
FWD, Auto, Gray, STK#R18-003F
NOW $14,999*

2016 Prius C
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, White, Mileage 21,972
STK#U18-019R
NOW $15,999*

2016 Prius C
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, Blue, Mileage 17,334
STK#U18-017R
NOW $16,199*

2016 Prius C
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, White, Mileage 15,130
STK#U18-018R
NOW $16,299*

2016 Prius C
4-cyl, Auto, White, STK#U17-136L
WAS $16,999
NOW $15,999*

2017 Yaris L Hatchback
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red/Black, STK#R17-028F
WAS $16,999
NOW $15,999*

2016 Corolla LE
FWD, Auto, 4DR Sedan, Red, STK#R18-006F
WAS $18,699
NOW $17,499*

2016 Scion IM
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, Mileage 10,372
STK#U18-020R
NOW $17,799*

2016 Corolla LE 4-DR sedan
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Green, Mileage 28,773, STK#R18-004F
WAS $18,999
NOW $18,499*

2016 Scion iM
HB, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Blue, Mileage 25,938,
STK#U18-021R
NOW $18,699*

2016 Scion IM
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, Mileage 12,937
STK#U18-022R
NOW $18,699*

2017 Corolla LE
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Red, Fully loaded with Alarm, Pro-Coat, & Backup Sensor, #R18-002F
WAS $20,899
NOW $19,999*

2015 RAV4 LE
4-cyl , Auto, AWD, Orange, Mileage 32,690
STK#U18-029T
NOW $20,699*

2016 Prius HV
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, Gray, Mileage 12,638
STK#U18-014R
NOW $20,799*

2016 Prius HV
4-cyl, Hybrid, Auto, FWD, Dk. Blue,
Mileage 18,002, STK#U18-016R
NOW $20,999*

2016 Camry LE
4-Dr, 4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Silver, Mileage 24,399,
STK#U18-028R
NOW $22,999*

2017 RAV4 LE
4-cyl, Auto, FWD, Blue, Mileage 11,159
STK#U18-023R
NOW $23,899*

2014 Tacoma Double Cab
4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L
WAS $31,399
NOW $23,999*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-109R
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NOW $24,999*

2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T
WAS $26,899
NOW $25,499*

2015 Highlander LE Sport
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White, STK#U17-135P
WAS $29,399
NOW $25,999*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-Cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-108R
WAS $30,599*
NOW $26,999*

2013 4Runner SR5
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T
WAS $27,699
NOW $27,699*

2013 4Runner SR5
V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, Mileage 46,113
STK#U18-013T
NOW $28,199*

2015 Nissan Xterra
Pro-4X, V6, Auto, 4WD, Red, STK#U18-035T
NOW $30,299*

2016 Sienna, V6
Auto, FWD, White, Mileage 33,929, STK#U18-010L
NOW $30,499*

2017 Tacoma DC, SR
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, Mileage 20,234,
STK#R18-012F
NOW $30,999*

2012 4Runner Trail Edition
Mileage 30,438, V6, Auto, 4WD, Gray, STK#U17-096P
WAS $34,999
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Trump needs a good reason to dump DACA. There is no good reason

A federal judge dealt the severest blow yet to the Trump administration's small-minded attempt to deport young adults brought illegally to the United States by their parents.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge John D. Bates, of Washington state, ruled that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program — DACA — not only must remain in place, but that the administration must also resume accepting new applications. He stayed his decision for 90 days.

It's the third judicial smackdown to President Trump's efforts to rescind the program — which President Obama created by executive order in 2012 — and deport those it shields, called DREAMers. One would hope the Trump administration would have gotten the message by now that his efforts are misguided. But don't bet on it.

In recent months, the DREAMers' struggle to stay in the United States has been teetering on a precipice. But Tuesday, Bates' ruling pulled them back from the brink — for a while.

Bates called the push to rescind DACA "arbitrary and capricious." He nailed it.

The federal judge noted that the Department of Homeland Security canceled DACA, alleging that the immigration protection program is "illegal," but said it did so without explaining how it came to that conclusion. Bates gave the department 90 days to better explain its position. DHS will have to work overtime to come up with a persuasive case.

If DHS fails to do so, the judge said, then it "must accept and process new as well as renewal DACA applications."

Earlier this year, two U.S. judges, one in Brooklyn and another in San Francisco, each issued injunctions ordering that the program remain in place. But neither ordered DHS to accept new applications if the department can't make its case.

This not only is welcome news for the estimated 690,000 DREAMers. It also injects some needed common-sense into this country's immigration system, itself too arbitrary and capricious. DACA is recognition that the people it protects did not willfully sneak across the border or overstay a tourist visa on their own.

The program allows immigrants, now young adults and who were brought to the United States illegally when they were children, to receive temporary permits to stay and work. It brought them out of the shadows to attend school, find jobs, even serve in the military without fear of being deported.

But true to his campaign promise to deport illegal immigrants, Trump threw DREAMers into the mix, revoking the program in March. And Congress has been of little help, failing to find a solution to the DREAMer drama, much less tackling broader, more comprehensive immigration reform.

It doesn't help that Trump has vacillated on the issue, once conveying that he wanted to offer DACA recipients a

See TRUMP on Next Page

Nicaragua's unfinished revolution takes a new turn

By MAC MARGOLIS
Bloomberg View

Mac Margolis writes about Latin America for Bloomberg View. *He was a reporter for Newsweek and is the author of "The Last New World: The Conquest of the Amazon Frontier."*

Whether brandishing a Kalashnikov or a stacked court, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega has proven especially resilient. The onetime guerrilla insurgent turned autocrat has endured turmoil, outsmarted opponents and coopted rivals to lock down four presidential mandates spread out across 38 years, marshal economic growth and outlast authoritarian peers.

So when protests exploded in the streets of Managua and other cities earlier this month, leaving at least 38 dead and provoking calls for Ortega's ouster, that idyll was shattered. The breadth and speed of unrest are new in Nicaragua and may prove to be an inflection point, if not a terminus, for one of Latin American autocracy's most successful brands.

The immediate trigger was a ham-fisted social security reform, announced earlier this month by decree, and then revoked just as abruptly on April 22 after a week of riots.

On the surface, the proposal seemed reasonable enough. Like most of its neighbors, Nicaragua spends too much on pensions for a society that is graying fast even as its taxable working age population shrinks. Nicaragua's fertility rate fell by more than half, from 5 children per woman in 1990 to 2.3 in 2015, while life expectancy rose 13 years to age 75 in the same period, according to a report by the International Monetary Fund.

That's hardly the hemisphere's worst case. But what's worrisome – and galling – for one of Central America's poorest nations is that the Ortega government has made the vexing demographics more dangerous through doubtful administration and murky deals.

After a partial makeover in 2006, Nicaragua ran a surplus in social security for the next six years. Thrift ended, however, in 2013, when Ortega's government began investing in questionable real estate deals and subsidized mortgages. Hence the IMF's warning last year that social security was on track to "run out of liquid reserves by 2019" and that "the authorities should act quickly to avoid a costly bailout of the system."

After punting reforms for years, Ortega surprised his compatriots with a hasty decree on April 16, ordering an increase in social security taxes and a cut in benefits, and sparked a revolt. "When people found they would be paying more and getting less for it, they were outraged," Manuel Orozco, an economist at the Inter-American Dialogue told me.

For Nicaraguans, that was just the latest in a string of Ortega's offenses. Resentment surged last year when the U.S. Treasury charged Nicaraguan supreme electoral council president Roberto Rivas with amassing considerable personal wealth while on the government payroll. Ortega's riposte? He not only protected Rivas but kept him on the job as the electoral council sponsored a sweeping, executive-friendly reform of electoral laws, over protests by citizen groups and opposition lawmakers.

The mood darkened last month when the government announced it had asked the legislature to "review the use of social networks," which was widely seen as code for censorship, drawing an immediate retort from Nicaraguan non-government organizations and the Catholic Church.

Then came the botched response to a wildfire — including an official decision to turn away a team of Costa Rican firefighters who'd volunteered to help — which destroyed 7,000 hectares of an important bio-reserve and covered several forest communities in a pall of smoke and ash. Nicaragua belatedly accepted help from a Mexican fire brigade.

"Ortega had always been seen as a kind of master player, but absolute rulers have a blind spot," said Orozco. "What he didn't realize is that the anger against his government had been growing."

Now Nicaraguans may have found opportunity in Ortega's debacle, including some unlikely apostates. One of the casualties of the public backlash over pensions could be the longtime government pact with the country's private sector: In return for executives' support for his policies — and their complicit silence on its authoritarian excesses — Ortega had allowed companies to prosper.

That alliance has worked reasonably well for both sides, not least because of the blessings businesses have reaped on Ortega's watch, including annual corporate tax breaks worth 6 percent of gross domestic product. Not coincidentally, says the IMF, those perks have added to Nicaragua's worsening fiscal woes.

Yet Ortega's fiat has not always been good for business. In a 2015 survey, 47 percent of company executives said they felt their property rights were not guaranteed by law and 50 percent said mechanisms for settling disputes were inefficient.

Finally, the moguls appear to be stirring. The leading business chamber, known by its acronym COSEP, representing companies that kick in around half of Nicaraguan GDP, has pointedly

See NICARAGUA'S on Next Page

Don't erase Bill Cosby's poverty-fighting message

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.

Looking back, it's ironic to remember how the charges against Bill Cosby were not taken seriously until after they became a joke.

The joke was told on a stage in Philadelphia four years ago by rising Chicago-based actor-comedian Hannibal Buress.

Buress, 35, is probably too young to remember much of Cosby's heyday as "America's dad" on stage, screen and comedy albums and other lovely honorifics from the mid-1960s through the '90s. His generation is more familiar with the more grimly serious and conservative social critic who emerged in Cosby's historic "pound cake" speech during an NAACP awards ceremony in Washington in 2004.

In the speech which went viral on the internet, Cosby was highly critical of such social deficits in black America as the prevalence of single-parent families, conspicuous consumption at the expense of necessities and a general lack of personal responsibility.

"People getting shot in the back of the head over a piece of pound cake," he famously grumbled at one point. "And then we all run out and are outraged, 'The cops shouldn't have shot him.' What the hell was he doing with the pound cake in his hand?"

Cosby was criticized by some who saw his speech as being too harsh regarding the black poor, many of whom are trying hard to help themselves and their neighborhoods. But it also drew praise from many in the black community and especially from white conservatives, some of whom wanted him to run for president.

But Buress, who also is African-American, changed all that after a cellphone camera caught him during a nightclub set in 2014 ripping into mounting accusations of sexual misconduct against Cosby that had previously been aired but largely ignored publicly.

"Pull your pants up black people, I was on TV in the '80s," Buress said, mocking Cosby's practice of scolding of black youth for passing up valuable opportunities because they were not behaving properly.

"Yeah, but you rape women, Bill Cosby," said Buress, stirring a mix of laughter with gasps of surprise. "So turn the crazy down a couple notches."

The episode might have ended there except for video caught by an audience member in an early signal of a rising digital age in which cellphone cameras change history.

The video marked a tipping point in the national Cosby conversation. Within days, national media were giving new respect to dozens of women who were coming forward with more stories of Cosby assaulting them sexually.

But statutes of limitation made most of the charges too old to be prosecuted. Then Andrea Constand, an employee at Cosby's alma mater, Temple University, charged that Cosby had drugged and raped her in 2004. That trial ended in a hung jury last year.

But a few months later came another show-business-related event that has turned the tide for Cosby and numerous other famous and powerful men facing similar accusations: the outing of Harvey Weinstein as a serial sexual predator, a scandal that has borne fruit in the #MeToo movement.

It is hard to say how much the changed atmosphere had to do with Cosby's conviction on three counts of aggravated indecent assault against Constand. But there can be little doubt that complaints of sexual misconduct are no longer dismissed as casually as they used to be.

Cosby probably will appeal his conviction as he awaits sentencing. But the very fact that his conviction occurred marks a breakthrough, not only for the victims but also for the rest of us who, like me, are shocked and disappointed to see the parade of prominent men who have lost their jobs over charges that used to be taken too lightly.

Now reruns of "The Cosby Show" are disappearing from cable channels, where for decades they were a money machine. Harder to erase, I hope, will be two national conversations Cosby has helped to ignite, wittingly or unwittingly, about helping the poor to fight poverty and helping the victims of sexual predators to find justice.

Russian troll factory hiring for new anti-US operation; biggest danger is not to America

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—The four-story building at 55 Savushkina St. that housed the infamous Russian internet "troll factory" that meddled in America's 2016 election now appears empty. I saw a huge "For Rent" sign in one of its large windows facing the street.

The main trolling operation has moved to an impersonal seven-story glass office building in the distant Lakhta business district. I couldn't enter the building due to tight security. (Journalists seen taking pictures have been grabbed and harassed.) The city's leading business daily Delovoy Peterburg reported late last year that the operation's workspace has tripled.

Yet, little known to Americans, this fake news factory, whose organizers and some staff were indicted by special counsel Robert Mueller for interfering with the U.S. political system, was not initially intended to wage information warfare on America.

Instead, its original purpose, starting in 2014, seems to have been to shape the thinking of ordinary Russians by viciously attacking domestic opposition activists and fueling public hostility toward Ukraine – and the United States.

The domestic propaganda barrage continues out of the troll factory's new digs, which include a massive online media conglomerate that intertwines news with Kremlin propaganda. "A tricky mix of normal reporting and hate speech," one Russian journalist calls it. RBC magazine wrote in March 2017 that this "media factory" now reaches an audience that exceeds 50 million Russians a month.

In May, this "media factory" will launch a new "information agency" called "USA Really. Wake Up Americans." It has already put out an announcement that it "will focus on promoting information and problems that are hushed up by major American publications controlled by the U.S. political elite." The agency is inviting "English-speaking journalists and authors to work on the project " and send their CVs.

Now that its secret internet project has been exposed, the troll factory will apparently focus more on open information warfare. Kremlin propaganda mills masquerading as news agencies will try to insert anti-American propaganda into U.S. – and Russian – media.

Given the rising tensions between Moscow and Washington, I think the domestic trolling operation holds more potential threat to America – than any (over-hyped) efforts to subvert U.S. democracy. It promotes Kremlin efforts to convince Russians that the United States wants to destroy their country and start WWIII (enhancing similar messages on state-controlled TV).

Since at least 2014, this trolling operation has been posting grotesque fabrications to foster Russian support for the Kremlin's invasion of eastern Ukraine — and to whip up hostile feelings toward America. The information operation is funded by a Putin-friendly oligarch, Yevgeny Prigozhin, who just also happens to control a mercenary outfit known as Wagner that has contract troops in Ukraine and Syria.

To find out how the trolling worked, I talked to brave Russian journalists and undercover activists in Moscow and St. Petersburg who have been reporting on the fake news factory since long before Americans ever heard of Russian trolls.

Vitaly Bespalov, a 27-year-old freelance journalist with long blond hair and a tattoo of Russian opposition politician Ksenia Sobchak on one arm, came to St. Petersburg in 2014 to try to find work. He answered an ad for a "content manager" at 55 Savushkina St. and was offered a salary about a third higher than a normal starting job in Russia. It was not long after Russia invaded eastern Ukraine and he was told he would be working for a department called Ukraine II.

Bespalov had to pull 20 news stories about Ukraine daily from the internet and rewrite them to fit the Russian propaganda version. Ukrainians resisting the Russian invasion were "terrorists" and Russia-backed separatists were "volunteers."

When a Ukrainian rocket hit an empty school where "volunteers" were hidden, the news was that Ukrainians wanted to kill children. Americans wanted to use the uprising as an excuse to start World War III.

(According to the BBC's Russian service, the troll factory was linked to a video operation in Ukraine that produced gems like a supposed U.S. soldier shooting bullets into a Quran, clips that might enrage Russian Muslims in the Caucasus.)

After a few days, Bespalov realized what was going on and decided to "stay and get more information and make it public." He was later assigned to distribute links to fake news stories to social-media groups in different Russian cities. These stories were filled with clichés, such as "(Secretary of State) Clinton wants war with Russia" and nasty claims about President Barack Obama.

"I used to think this work was absolutely stupid work with no results," Bespalov told me. But later he heard ordinary people using these clichés in their conversation "not just about Ukraine but about the USA."

The trolling news operation backs Kremlin efforts to convince Russians that the United States wants to destroy their country. Similar messages are delivered by state-controlled TV.

Unfortunately, I was unable to learn what the American department of the troll factory is up to these days. Russian journalists say that, since 2016 it is much harder to find sources that have worked inside the troll factory. "They are scared and refuse to talk," says Bespalov.

Only a handful of Russian news outlets still cover this story, which can put journalists at severe risk. After Vitaly Bespalov was interviewed by NBC late last year, the main state TV channel attacked him viciously, and his picture appeared on social media with false claims that he was a drug addict.

In the United States, on the other hand, we have plenty of information, overhyped, about Russian trolling. (Russian journalists I met uniformly expressed astonishment at any claims that the troll factory changed the outcome of the 2016 election.)

We know what happened in 2016, and should be fully able to take adequate precautions about any similar efforts. Forewarned about Russian trolling should be forearmed.

NICARAGUA'S

From Page 10

criticized the heavy-handed official response to protests and called for dialogue — not a favorite in the Sandinista playbook.

Talk alone is unlikely to curb the Nicaraguan government's authoritarian instincts. But clearly the unofficial pact of indulgences as well as the private sector's complicit silence must end.

Thanks to years of centralizing power, Ortega has all but defenestrated the country's political opposition. Students and civil society groups have stepped up in the wake of the disastrous pension reform plan. Will the private sector do its part? "The business community is one of the most legitimate social forces in the country," said Orozco. "That makes them political players, whether they like it or not."

The precedent exits. Almost 40 year ago, business leaders joined forces with the political opposition and labor unions, funding three political strikes that helped drive then-Nicaraguan dictator Gen. Anastasio Somoza from power. That was the precursor of COSEP's subsequent complicated alliance with the Sandinistas. Now, surely, it's time for that tryst to end.

TRUMP

From Page 10

lifeline, then reversing course — in Easter Sunday comments, no less — that there would be no DACA deal.

Bates is to be commended for restraining a process whose consequences would needlessly upend so many lives. As we have long said, the Trump administration should reconsider its decision to end DACA and take the lead in finding a just and humane solution to the dilemma these young people face. It's a dilemma not of their own making.

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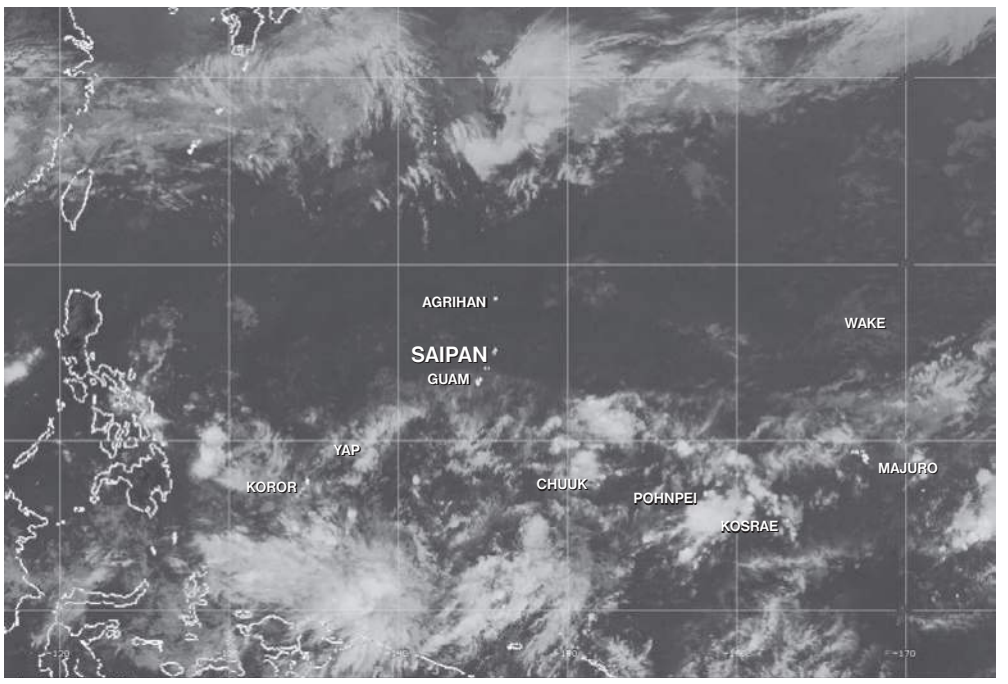
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:13 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A quiet weather pattern is expected across the Marianas through the coming week. While there may be small patches of showers at times the models keep the weather relatively dry through much of the coming week with only isolated showers expected. Weak trade-wind convergence will produce some periods of mostly cloudy skies tonight through Wednesday night. Despite the clouds showers will still remain isolated in coverage.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 54°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	73° / 61°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	78° / 73°
New York	Sunny	77° / 61°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 41°
Busan	Rain	66° / 55°
Rome	Rain	66° / 59°
Salem	Sunny	83° / 56°
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 49°
Seoul	Rain	70° / 46°
Tokyo	Sunny	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	81° / 59°

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:36 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.79
7:55 AM	LOW TIDE	1.93
2:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.12
9:27 PM	LOW TIDE	1.89

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:43 AM	7:40 PM
Wednesday	-	7:27 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	-	8:13 AM	9:22 PM
Friday	-	8:59 AM	10:12 PM
Saturday	-	9:48 AM	11:01 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

2018 CNMI Women's Month
"Press for Continued Progress"

The 2018 CNMI Women's Month Planning Committee would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the following donors, advertisers, and partners for making this year's Women's Month of March and the 5th Annual Women's Summit March 26-27, 2018 a success.

Thank you, again, for all of your generous support; we could not have done it without you!

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Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Maraming Salamat Po!

MVA takes Marianas Road Show to 5 China cities

The 2018 Marianas Visitors Authority China Road Show came to its fifth and final stop in Guangzhou on April 24, 2018, reaching over 600 travel agencies and media with the latest Marianas destination updates and marketing plans.

The MVA visited all cities with direct flights to Saipan—Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou—as well as Xi'an, where potential for direct flights is being explored.

The MVA also officially launched the Chinese version of the slogan "Paradise for Everyone" with eight travel themes for The Marianas: ocean, sports, food, culture, family, wedding & honeymoon, eco-tour and self-driving. Celebrities, VIPs, media, and bloggers who have visited Saipan, Tinian, or Rota recorded a greeting video to celebrate the launch of the Chinese slogan.

Several VIP guests presented their insight into the tourism potential of The Marianas: Michael A. Middleton, foreign service officer from the Embassy of the United States of America; Chen Mengyu, deputy director of Shaanxi Provincial Tourism Administration; and Zhou Tong, cofounder and vice president of Qyer.com.

The 2018 Marianas Visitors Authority China Road Show gathers travel trade and media reps in Xi'an, China, on Apr. 18, 2018. The road show visited four cities with direct flights to The Marianas, as well as Xi'an. MVA

ZhouTong, cofounder of Qyer.com, the leading FITonlinetravelagencyin China, speaks at the Marianas Visitors Authority China Road Show on Apr. 16, 2018, in Beijing. MVA

The road show provides an opportunity for B2B meetings for travel trade and media representatives. MVA

"This first round of road shows was strongly supported by our tourism partners and well-received by the industry in cities we visited," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "After this round of road shows, we will begin visiting more second tier cities to introduce Marianas tourism resources to more potential partners and visitors. China will remain a strong source market for The Marianas for the foreseeable future."

The MVA was joined by major travel industry partners who shared their tourism resources, including Brighten International Travel, Century Tours, SPITS, New World Travel Agency, Asiana Airlines, Top Development Inc, DFS, Bridge Investment Group, Imperial Pacific, and Impression Tour. Additional promotional materials and prizes for the road show were provided by Aqua Resort Club, Saipan Submarine, Franken Brau, and GIG Discotheque.

From left, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, MVA China country manager Florence Shi, and U.S. Embassy foreign service officer Michael A. Middleton launch the slogan "Paradise for Everyone" at the MVA China Road Show on Apr. 16, 2018, in Beijing. MVA

The 2018 Marianas Visitors Authority China Road Show gathers travel trade and media reps in Xi'an, China, on Apr. 18, 2018. The road show visited four cities with direct flights to The Marianas, as well as Xi'an. ***(PR)***

Roundtable on human rights institutions in the Pacific

SUVA, Fiji—The Pacific Community's Regional Rights Resource Team (SPC RRRT) and the Australia High Commission, Fiji, today convened a donor roundtable on the progress of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the Pacific. The roundtable was held in partnership with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF), and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The roundtable considered recent developments in the Pacific in establishing effective and sustainable NHRIs. It discussed the requirements for them to succeed and thrive, and the types of support they need in the medium term. It also identified opportunities and challenges for development partners in supporting the establishment of NHRIs and their work.

In his opening remarks, Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, John Feakes, said Australia remains committed to supporting human rights in the Pacific.

"Australia is thankful for the strong support it received from the Pacific region on its successful candidacy for the Human Rights Council. We want to use our three-year term (2018-2020) to amplify the voice of the Pacific, including by showcasing its human rights achievements."

SPC RRRT Director, Mr Miles Young said "Pacific Island countries should lead the establishment of NHRIs in their countries. They are best placed to understand their human rights priorities and how to achieve them. SPC RRRT, AFP and OHCHR are here to provide technical support and this roundtable is part of that process."

Participants acknowledged the progress provided through the partnership between RRRT, APF, and OHCHR as highlighted by the recent peer learning exchange between Samoa and Tuvalu.

In addition, national and regional-level dialogue will continue to remain a key focus offered by the partnership going forward.

Development partners who participated in the roundtable included the European Union, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, and the U.S. Embassy.

Pacific Island countries who participated included Fiji, Samoa, Tuvalu, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshal Islands.

NHRIs are specialised bodies established by governments to provide an independent assessment of the nation's protection and promotion of the human rights of its people, including the vulnerable. While governments are responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, NHRIs support governments by providing advice, monitoring standards and practices, investigating violations, and promoting education and training.

In the Pacific, the number of NHRIs, either established or under consideration, has more than doubled in the past 12 months. Tuvalu, Nauru, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Cook Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), have joined Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Samoa in strengthening their institutional environment to ensure that human rights remain a top priority for the Pacific.

Of these five countries, Tuvalu has progressed the furthest, with legislation drafted and passed to set up a NHRI. There is a growing interest from the others to follow suit, having hosted NHRI scoping missions, towards the creation of fully operational, sustainable and Paris Principles compliant NHRIs. ***(SPC)***

Business

Sprint and T-Mobile agree to combine in $26.5B deal

NEW YORK (AP)—T-Mobile and Sprint reached a $26.5 billion merger agreement Sunday that would reduce the U.S. wireless industry to three major players — that is, if the Trump administration's antitrust regulators let the deal go through.

The nation's third- and fourth-largest wireless companies have been considering a combination for years, one that would bulk them up to a similar size as industry giants Verizon and AT&T. But a 2014 attempt fell apart amid resistance from the Obama administration.

The combined company, to be called T-Mobile, would have about 127 million customers. Consumers worry a less crowded telecom field could result in higher prices, while unions are concerned about potential job losses.

In a conference call with Wall Street analysts, Sprint CEO Marcelo Claure acknowledged that getting regulatory approval is "the elephant in the room," and one of the first things the companies did after sending out the deal's news release was to call Ajit Pai, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

The companies stressed that they plan to have more employees following the combination, particularly in rural areas, than they do as standalone companies now.

They also emphasized that the deal would help accelerate their development of faster 5G wireless networks and ensure that the U.S. doesn't cede leadership on the technology to China.

And they said the combination would allow them to better compete not only with AT&T and Verizon but also with Comcast and others as the wireless, broadband and video industries converge.

"This isn't a case of going from 4 to 3 wireless companies — there are now at least 7 or 8 big competitors in this converging market," T-Mobile chief executive John Legere said in a statement. He would be the CEO of the combined company.

The all-stock deal values each share of Sprint at slightly more than 0.10 T-Mobile shares. Deutsche Telekom, T-Mobile's parent, would own about 42 percent of the combined company. Japan's SoftBank, which controls Sprint, would own 27 percent, and the remainder would be held by the public.

Disillusioned with grind of telecommute

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: I have become very disillusioned with my telecommuting job. I accepted this position about a year ago because I liked the idea of working from home. However, I now have so many assignments that I can barely keep up. I was recently given a huge project which has me working until midnight almost every day.

My manager is located at corporate headquarters, which is in another state. I have emailed her about my workload, but I don't think she understands. On top of that, she doesn't provide any feedback. Although my projects have all been successful, I never receive any compliments, like "good job" or "thanks for your hard work."

Despite the convenience of having my office at home, I'm about ready to quit. Do you have any advice?

A: Unfortunately, the old adage "out of sight, out of mind" can be all too true when people are working remotely. Without ongoing observation and dialogue, managers often have no clue about what their off-site employees are actually doing. As a result, they may continue delegating assignments without understanding the cumulative effect.

When management fails to establish regular communication, remote employees must take the initiative. For example, the "huge project" that was dumped in your lap clearly requires an expectation-setting conversation with your boss. You should discuss deliverables and deadlines, and then explain what you need in terms of time and resources.

Because overuse of email is a teleworking pitfall, important discussions should always be verbal. While email is fine for routine exchanges, attempting to address complex issues in writing inevitably leads to mistakes and misunderstandings. Picking up the phone will save time in the long run.

Going forward, arrange a schedule of regular meetings with your boss to review assignments, establish priorities, and receive feedback. If you occasionally ask how you're doing, she will probably provide a few pats on the back.

Q: One of my coworkers has been going around our manager and recommending changes to our new vice president. "Casey" schedules private meetings with the VP and sends him emails without copying our boss.

She has been visiting other offices to observe their procedures and reporting her findings directly to him.

Casey recently told me in confidence that she will soon be reporting to the VP. She seemed to be implying that she is going to replace our manager. I have considered telling our boss about Casey's deceitful behavior, but I'm not sure he would believe me. What do you think?

A: Before informing on your devious coworker, you might want to view these events from a slightly different perspective. New executives often choose to make changes in policies, procedures and staff. So instead of assuming that Casey is plotting a coup, consider the possibility that the vice president may have initiated these activities himself.

If Casey's gossip is correct, your best move is to avoid becoming involved in this political skirmish. Blabbing to your boss could easily damage your own career, especially if Casey eventually becomes his replacement. So focus on your work, keep this damaging rumor to yourself, and wait to see what happens.

Nation

US: Crossing is full before caravan tries to seek asylum

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A group of Central Americans who journeyed in a caravan to the U.S. border resolved to turn themselves in and ask for asylum Sunday in a direct challenge to the Trump administration—only to have U.S. immigration officials announce that the San Diego crossing was already at capacity.

AP

A migrant child from Honduras looks across the U.S.-Mexico Border from Tijuana, Mexico, Friday, April 27, 2018.

Nearly 200 migrants, many traveling with children, had decided to apply for protection at the nation's busiest border crossing after many fled violence in their home countries, organizers said. The caravan got attention after President Donald Trump and members of his Cabinet called it a threat to the United States.

Shortly before the migrants were expected to arrive, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said San Diego's San Ysidro crossing would not immediately be able to handle more asylum seekers. It can hold about 300 people at a time, and officials had been warning that it might fill up.

"At this time, we have reached capacity at the San Ysidro port of entry for CBP officers to be able to bring additional persons traveling without appropriate entry documentation into the port of entry for processing," Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said in a statement. "Those individuals may need to wait in Mexico as CBP officers work to process those already within our facilities."

He said the crossing could take in additional people as space and resources become available.

Despite the announcement, about 50 people walked across a bridge and approached the port facility, but were not immediately accommodated by U.S. officials. They were being permitted to wait in passageways until room became available, and appeared prepared to wait overnight, according to Irineo Mujica, one of the organizers of Pueblos Sin Fronteras, an organization assisting the asylum speakers.

Another 50 prepared to camp outside a gate on the Mexican side of the border crossing with backpacks and blankets hoping to get their turn on Monday.

Nicole Ramos, an attorney working on behalf of caravan members, expressed disbelief that U.S. authorities cannot process more asylum seekers until its backlog eases.

"They have been well aware that a caravan is going to arrive at the border," she said at a news conference. "The failure to prepare and failure to get sufficient agents and resources is not the fault of the most vulnerable among us. We can build a base in Iraq in under a week. We can't process 200 refugees. I don't believe it."

The migrants had made their way north by foot, freight train and bus over the past month, many saying they feared for their lives in their home countries.

Pompeo swaps no-profile espionage for overt diplomacy

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Mike Pompeo has swapped the no-profile, cloak-and-dagger world of covert espionage for the life of a buttoned-down diplomat, representing the public face of the Trump administration's foreign policy.

Making his first overseas trip as secretary of state, the ex-CIA chief traded in a small, unmarked government jet, secret overseas voyages and hush-hush meetings with spy chiefs and the occasional rogue world leader for a decidedly conspicuous U.S. Air Force 757 with "United States of America" emblazoned across its fuselage, a traveling press corps and frequent public appearances.

Pompeo has told aides that he recognizes the importance of public diplomacy and interacting with journalists, something his predecessor, Rex Tillerson, appeared to have never fully accepted and largely shunned until his final months in office.

Just a month ago, Pompeo in his previous job was on a highly classified mission to North Korea where he met with North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong Un to gauge prospects for what would be a historic summit between Kim and President Donald Trump.

But unlike that trip, which remained a mystery to much of the world until just last week, his maiden trip as secretary of state was replete with televised welcome ceremonies, live-streamed photo ops and well-attended media events.

Departing Washington less than three hours after he was confirmed by the Senate and sworn-in Thursday by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, a fellow Italian-American, Pompeo rushed to Joint Base Andrews. There, he hopped on the plane and flew overnight to Brussels, arriving before dawn for a NATO foreign ministers meeting.

"It's never good to be late on your first day of work, and so after being sworn in I hustled here," he joked at NATO headquarters.

From Belgium, Pompeo kept up a relentless pace, stopping in Saudi Arabia, Israel and Jordan.

"I haven't been to my office yet," he quipped on Sunday after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv on only his third full day on the job — a day that began in Saudi Arabia and ended in Jordan to complete a rare one-day trifecta.

Pompeo won't make his first appearance at the State Department's Foggy Bottom headquarters in Washington, D.C., until Tuesday when he will speak to employees eager to hear his plans to lead the agency, which was badly demoralized during the brief tenure of Tillerson, unceremoniously fired by Trump last month.

Asia

UN team, in Bangladesh, vows to work to end Rohingya crisis

KUTUPALONG, Bangladesh (AP)—A U.N. Security Council team visiting Bangladesh promised Sunday to work hard to resolve a crisis involving hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled to the country to escape military-led violence in neighboring Myanmar.

The diplomats, who visited the sprawling camps and border points where about 700,000 Rohingya have taken shelter, said their visit was an opportunity to see the situation firsthand.

Russia's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, Dmitry Polyansky, said he and his fellow team members would not look away from the crisis after their visit, though he warned that there are no simple solutions.

"It's very necessary to come and see everything at place here in Bangladesh and Myanmar. But there is no magic solution, there is no magic stick to solve all these issues," he said at a news conference at the Kutupalong refugee camp in the coastal town of Cox's Bazar.

The diplomats will conclude their three-day visit to Bangladesh on Monday, when they leave for Myanmar.

The recent spasm of violence in Myanmar began when Rohingya insurgents staged a series of attacks on Aug. 25 on about 30 security outposts and other targets. In a subsequent crackdown described by U.N. and U.S. officials as "ethnic cleansing," Myanmar security forces have been accused of rape, killing, torture and the burning of Rohingya homes. Thousands are believed to have been killed.

The diplomats, comprising representatives from the five permanent Security Council members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States—and 10 non-permanent member states, talked to some 120 refugees, including rape victims.

Peru's ambassador to the U.N., Gustavo Adolfo Meza Cuadra Velasqez, said he and his fellow team members were ready to "work hard" and were "very concerned" about the crisis.

"I think we have witnessed the magnitude of the refugee crisis and very tragic situation of some of the families," he said.

The refugees are seeking U.N. protection to return home. The U.N. refugee agency and Bangladesh recently finalized a memorandum of understanding that said the repatriation process must be "safe, voluntary and dignified ... in line with international standards."

Karen Pierce, the U.K.'s ambassador to the United Nations, said the Security Council would continue to work on enabling the refugees to return to Myanmar, but that the Rohingya must be allowed to return under safe conditions.

"The problem there lies in their expulsion, treatment and the fact that they had to flee to Bangladesh," she said.

Rohingya are denied citizenship in overwhelmingly Buddhist Myanmar, where they've faced persecution for decades. They're derided as "Bengalis," and many in Myanmar believe they are illegal migrants from Bangladesh. Most of them live in poverty in Myanmar's Rakhine state, next to Bangladesh.

Thousands of refugees gathered amid scorching heat at the Kutupalong camp to welcome the visiting delegation. They carried placards, some of which read "We want justice."

"We are not Bengali, we are Rohingya. They have killed my family members, they tortured us, they will kill us again," said one of the refugees, 29-year-old Mohammed Tayab, standing in front of a tent where he was waiting to meet the U.N. team.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH makes ban on workers going to Kuwait permanent

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Sunday that a ban on Filipino workers from heading to Kuwait that's been in effect since February would now be permanent, inflaming a dispute sparked by complaints of the abuse of Filipina housemaids and workers in the Persian Gulf country. Kuwait on Wednesday expelled the Philippine ambassador and recalled its own envoy from Manila over the dispute. The highly unusual move came as a surprise in Kuwait, a typically sedate and oil-rich nation that has been both a long target of Duterte's criticism and heavily reliant on Filipina nannies and maids. "The ban stays permanently," Duterte said at a news briefing in southern Davao City after arriving from Singapore, where he attended a summit of Southeast Asian leaders. "There will be no more recruitment for especially domestic helpers. No more." There was no immediate reaction from Kuwaiti officials.

S. Korea to remove propaganda loudspeakers at shared border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea says it will remove propaganda-broadcasting loudspeakers from the border with North Korea. The announcement came three days after the leaders of the two Koreas agreed to work together to achieve a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and end hostile acts against each other along their border during their rare summit talks. Seoul's Defense Ministry said Monday it will pull back dozens of its frontline loudspeakers on Tuesday. It says Seoul expects Pyongyang to do the same. South Korea had turned off its loudspeakers ahead of Friday's summit talks, and North Korea responded by halting its own broadcasts. Seoul had blasted propaganda messages and K-pop songs from border loudspeakers since the North's fourth nuclear test in early 2016. The North quickly matched the South's action with its own border broadcasts.

Afghan children set off unexploded mortar round, 3 dead

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A group of children set off an unexploded mortar round in a residential area in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, causing a blast that killed a woman and two children, according to provincial official. Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar province, said another seven children were wounded in Sunday's explosion. He said the mortar round had been fired by insurgents the night before but failed to explode. Afghanistan is littered with land mines and unexploded munitions left over from decades of war, which kill and wound hundreds of people every year. In Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar, a rickshaw loaded with explosives blew up near a mosque and registration center, wounding a policeman and six civilians, Khogyani said. No one immediately claimed the blast. Both the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate are active in Nangarhar. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a bombing in Jalalabad on Saturday that wounded 12 people, including two traffic police.

World

Iraq's IS trials bring swift verdicts

TEL KEIF, Iraq (AP)—The entire trial lasted just over half an hour. A grey-haired man was led into the defendant's booth. He fidgeted as the judge read the charges against him: Swearing allegiance to the Islamic State group and working for the militants as an employee at a water station.

"Not guilty," the defendant, Abdullah al-Jabouri, told the judge in a session of one of Iraq's counterterrorism courts this week. He said he had worked for Nineveh province's water department for more than 20 years and stayed at his post when IS took over in 2014, but he denied ever swearing allegiance to the group.

"All government employees continued in their jobs at the water facility," the 47-year-old Sunni Arab protested.

"I am asking you to speak only about yourself," the judge interrupted him. Soon after, the judge and his two associates went into deliberations. A few minutes later they returned with their verdict: Guilty, sentenced to 15 years in prison. Al-Jabouri, his head bowed, was quickly led out and the next accused IS member was ushered in.

Iraq is holding huge numbers of detainees on suspicion of ties to the Islamic State group—around 11,000, according to Iraqi officials—and they are being rushed through counterterrorism courts in trials that raise questions over whether justice is being done. At the same time, families are often left in the dark about where their loved ones are being detained or what their fates are.

AP

In this Thursday, April 26, 2018 photo, women show photos of their relatives at Nineveh Criminal Court, one of two counterterrorism courts in Iraq where suspected Islamic State militants and their associates are tried, in Tel Keif, Iraq.

» Almost all guilty

The Associated Press last week attended several trials being held in Tel Keif, north of Mosul.

Throughout the system, the trials are usually short, often less than 30 minutes, and most end with guilty verdicts. Convictions are based on confessions that defendants and rights groups say intelligence agents extract by intimidation, torture and abuse. Also used as evidence are reports from anonymous informants, raising the possibility of false accusations made as revenge against rivals. The same defense lawyer works dozens of cases, with little knowledge of the defendants.

Moreover, even limited involvement with IS can bring harsh punishment. Under Iraq's terror law, only three punishments are permitted—15 years in prison, life imprisonment or execution by hanging. All verdicts are reviewed by Iraq's Supreme Court.

"The system is built on an unjust foundation," said one defense lawyer, Mahfoudh Hamad Ismael. "These suspects' cases are done and finished the first day they enter a security detention center or an intelligence facility."

UK interior minister quits over growing immigration scandal

LONDON (AP)—Britain's interior minister resigned Sunday amid a scandal over authorities' mistreatment of long-term U.K. residents wrongly caught up in a government drive to reduce illegal immigration.

Prime Minister Theresa May's office said late Sunday that May had accepted the resignation of Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

Rudd had been due to make a statement to Parliament on Monday over the "Windrush scandal," which has dominated headlines in Britain for days and has sparked intense criticism of the Conservative government's tough immigration policies.

The furor has grown since the Guardian newspaper reported that some people who came to the U.K. from the Caribbean in the decades after World War II had recently been refused medical care in Britain or threatened with deportation because they could not produce paperwork proving their right to reside in the country.

Those affected belong to the "Windrush generation," named for the ship Empire Windrush, which in 1948 brought hundreds of Caribbean immigrants to Britain, which was seeking nurses, railway workers and others to help it rebuild after the devastation of World War II.

They and subsequent Caribbean migrants came from British colonies or ex-colonies and had an automatic right to settle in the U.K. But some have been ensnared by tough new rules introduced since 2012 that were intended to make Britain a "hostile environment" for illegal immigrants.

Legal migrants have been denied housing, jobs or medical treatment because of requirements that landlords, employers and doctors check people's immigration status. Others have been told by the government that they are in Britain illegally and must leave.

"What has happened to the Windrush generation isn't an anomaly. It's not due to an administrative error. It's a consequence of the hostile environment created by this (Conservative) government," London Mayor Sadiq Khan, a member of the opposition Labour Party, said Sunday.

The policy was introduced at a time when May, now the prime minister, was home secretary.

The opposition Liberal Democrat party's home affairs spokesman, Ed Davey, said Rudd had become "the fall guy to protect the prime minister."

In recent weeks Rudd and May have apologized repeatedly to the Windrush generation, saying all pre-1973 Commonwealth immigrants who don't already have British citizenship will get it, and those affected will get compensation.

Rudd's position worsened after she told lawmakers last week that the government did not have targets for deporting people—only for a 2017 memo to emerge that mentioned specific targets for "enforced removals."

Focus

N. Korea glorifies summit with South; analysts less sure

By FOSTER KLUG and KIM TONG-HYUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOYANG, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's state media on Saturday trumpeted leader Kim Jong Un's "immortal achievement" a day after he met South Korean President Moon Jae-in and repeated past vows to remove nuclear weapons from the peninsula and work toward a formal end to the Korean War. Despite the bold declarations, the leaders failed to provide any new measures on a nuclear standoff that has captivated and terrified millions, and analysts expressed doubts on whether the summit represented a real breakthrough.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency, in typically fawning language, reported that the leaders exchanged "honest and heartfelt talks" at a summit that "was a realization of the supreme leader's blazing love for the nation and unyielding will for self-reliance." The state propaganda arm said Kim's "immortal achievement will be brightly engraved in the history of the Korean nation's unification."

Even if the substance on nuclear matters was light, the images Friday at Panmunjom were striking: Kim and Moon set aside a year that saw them seemingly on the verge of war, grasped hands and strode together across the cracked concrete slab that marks the Koreas' border.

The sight, inconceivable just months ago, allowed the leaders to step forward toward the possibility of a cooperative future even as they acknowledged a fraught past and the widespread skepticism that, after decades of failed diplomacy, things will be any different this time.

On the nuclear issue, the leaders merely repeated a previous vow to rid their peninsula of nuclear weapons, saying they will achieve a "nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization." This kicks one of the world's most pressing issues down the road to a much-anticipated summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in coming weeks.

"There is no reference to verification, timetables, or an attempt to define the word 'complete.' It does not reiterate or advance Pyongyang's unilateral offer to halt nuclear and ICBM tests," said Adam Mount, a senior defense analyst at the Federation of American Scientists. "In practice, this statement should enable a U.S.-North Korea summit to detail specifics about what, when, and how denuclearization would occur, but it has not offered a head start on that process. All of the negotiation is left to a U.S. team that is understaffed and has little time to prepare."

Still, the summit produced the spectacle of two men from nations with a deep and bitter history of acrimony grinning from ear to ear after Kim walked over the border to greet Moon, becoming the first leader of his nation to set foot on southern soil since the Korean War. Both leaders then briefly stepped together into the North and back to the South.

The summit marks a surreal, whiplash swing in relations for the countries, from nuclear threats and missile tests to intimations of peace and cooperation. Perhaps the change is best illustrated by geography: Kim and Moon's historic handshake and a later 30-minute conversation at a footbridge on the border occurred within walking distance of the spot where a North Korean soldier fled south in a hail of gunfire last year, and where North Korean soldiers killed two U.S. soldiers with axes in 1976.

Standing next to Moon after the talks ended, Kim faced a wall of cameras beaming his image live to the world and declared that the Koreas are "linked by blood as a family and compatriots who cannot live separately." The leaders also vowed to achieve "a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization," something they've said before.

The latest declaration between the Koreas, Kim said, should not repeat the "unfortunate history of past inter-Korean agreements that only reached the starting line" before becoming derailed.

What happened Friday should be seen in the context of the last year—when the United States, its ally South Korea and North Korea threatened and raged as the North unleashed a torrent of weapons tests—but also in light of the long, destructive history of the rival Koreas, who fought one of the 20th century's bloodiest conflicts and even today occupy a divided peninsula that's still technically in a state of war.

Trump tweeted Friday, "KOREAN WAR TO END!" and said the U.S. "should be very proud of what is now taking place in Korea!" Both Koreas agreed to jointly push for talks this year with the U.S. and also potentially China to officially end the Korean War, which stopped with an armistice that never ended the war.

Many will be judging the summit based on the weak nuclear language. North Korea's nuclear and missile tests last year likely put it on the threshold of becoming a legitimate nuclear power. The North, which has spent decades doggedly building its bombs despite crippling sanctions and near-constant international opprobrium, claims it has already risen to that level.

South Korean conservative politicians criticized the joint statement as letting North Korea off the hook by failing to secure a clear commitment on nuclear disarmament.

But the Koreas made inroads on a raft of other points of friction between them. Moon agreed to visit Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, sometime in the autumn, and both leaders said they'd meet on a regular basis and exchange calls via a recently established hotline.

They agreed to settle their disagreement over their western maritime border by designating it as a peace area and securing fishing activities for both countries. They said they'd open a permanent communication office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and resume temporary reunions of relatives separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

"I feel like I'm firing a flare at the starting line in the moment of (the two Koreas) writing a new history in North-South relations, peace and prosperity," Kim told Moon as they sat at a table, which had been built so that exactly 2018 millimeters separated them, to begin their closed-door talks.

Kim acknowledged the widespread skepticism over their summit. "We have reached big agreements before but were unable to fulfill them. ... There are skeptical views on whether the meeting today will yield meaningful results," Kim said. "If we maintain a firm will and proceed forward hand in hand, it will be impossible at least for things to get worse than they are now."

The historic greeting of the two leaders, which may be the images most remembered from the summit, was planned to the last detail, though the multiple border crossings may have been impromptu. As thousands of journalists, who were kept in a huge conference center well away from the summit, except for a small group of tightly controlled pool reporters at the border, waited and watched, Moon stood near the Koreas' dividing line, moving forward the moment he glimpsed Kim, dressed in dark, Mao-style suit, appearing in front of a building on the northern side. They smiled broadly and shook hands with the border line between them. Moon then invited Kim to cross into the South, and, after Kim did so, Moon said, "You have crossed into the South, but when do I get to go across?" Kim replied, "Why don't we go across now?" and then grasped Moon's hand and led him into the North and then back into the South.

Expectations were generally low on the nuclear issue, given that past so-called breakthroughs on North Korea's weapons have collapsed amid acrimonious charges of cheating and bad faith. Skeptics of engagement have long said that the North often turns to interminable rounds of diplomacy meant to ease the pain of sanctions — giving it time to perfect its weapons and win aid for unfulfilled nuclear promises.

Advocates of engagement, however, say the only way to get a deal is to do what the Koreas tried Friday: Sit down and see what's possible.

Takeaways from Koreas summit: Kim's smiles, Moon's reception

By ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—With the much anticipated summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in now ready for the history books, Kim's foray into the world of globe-trotting diplomacy moves on to his next high-profile appointment—with President Donald Trump.

But before it gets lost in the rearview mirror, it's worth remembering that Friday's daylong summit inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides the North and South was quite an event in its own right.

A few of the takeaways:

KIM'S A REAL PERSON

Despite being the center of an intense cult of personality and a constant presence on North Korean television and in newspapers, Kim Jong Un got a lot more exposure than ever before when he crossed over into South Korea, where nearly 3,000 journalists had registered to cover the summit.

Key parts of the event were broadcast live — another rarity for Kim — providing the South with its first really good, unvarnished look at the North Korean leader. They saw glimpses of a very heavy young man out of breath as he signed a guestbook after walking with Moon. They also saw him red-faced at a banquet, likely from the ample beverages available.

But some of the most striking images were simply of Kim's seeming ease and confidence as he navigated the situation—and his quick and frequent smiles. For good measure, he even brought his wife—a former singer who is also quite comfortable in the public eye—and his younger sister, who is his closest confidante and was on hand at almost every turn to hand him statements to sign, adjust his chair and generally look out for her older brother.

MOON KNOWS HOW TO IMPRESS

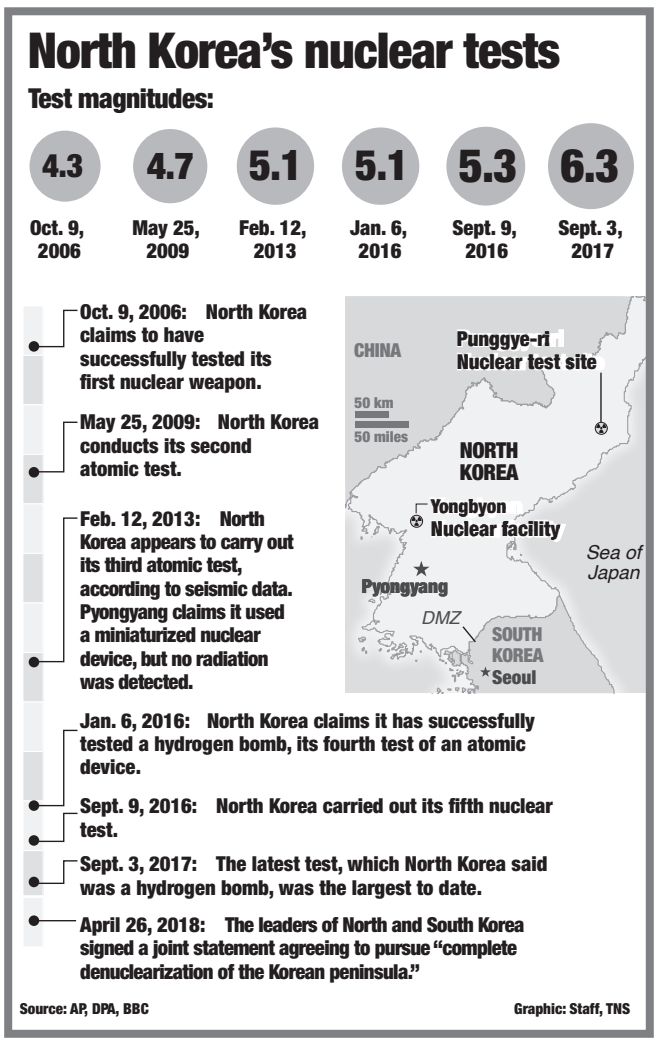
Moon made sure the summit would be a tremendously visual display of Korean reconciliation. The South planned everything the two leaders would do, right down to the last detail, from the initial handshake over the line that divides their countries to the goodbye light show and concert Moon hosted as Kim's final send-off.

The summit, held on the south side of the DMZ, was filled with such moments, but also allowed enough room for others that perhaps were unscripted, including Kim taking Moon's hand and stepping together with him over the dividing line and, briefly, back into the North. Both leaders announced that Kim will fete Moon in Pyongyang in the fall. For all its theatrics and hitting every emotional beat, Moon's summit extravaganza will certainly be a hard act to follow.

TRUMP'S GOT A REAL TASK AHEAD

Kim now has two major summits under his belt—he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping last month in Beijing—and he sailed through both without pinning himself down with any substantive promises about what he plans to do with his nuclear weapons. Xi and Moon let that slide, but it's going to be a problem for Trump, who has made statements that seem to bet the farm on a deal for Kim to quickly and irreversibly denuclearize.

Trump and Kim have yet to even set a place or a date to meet, though they are aiming for late May or early June, and Trump has stated that if he doesn't believe the talks are fruitful, he'll call them off or get up and leave. Meeting with the president of the United States, his country's archenemy, is also a different ballgame for Kim. China is a traditional ally, even if relations are often bumpy, and in South Korea he is at least with fellow Koreans who share a language and culture. Trump will be as much of a wild card to Kim as Kim is to Trump.


North Korea's nuclear tests
Test magnitudes:
4.3
Oct. 9, 2006
4.7
May 25, 2009
5.1
Feb. 12, 2013
5.1
Jan. 6, 2016
5.3
Sept. 9, 2016
6.3
Sept. 3, 2017
Oct. 9, 2006: North Korea claims to have successfully tested its first nuclear weapon.
May 25, 2009: North Korea conducts its second atomic test.
Feb. 12, 2013: North Korea appears to carry out its third atomic test, according to seismic data. Pyongyang claims it used a miniaturized nuclear device, but no radiation was detected.
Jan. 6, 2016: North Korea claims it has successfully tested a hydrogen bomb, its fourth test of an atomic device.
Sept. 9, 2016: North Korea carried out its fifth nuclear test.
Sept. 3, 2017: The latest test, which North Korea said was a hydrogen bomb, was the largest to date.
April 26, 2018: The leaders of North and South Korea signed a joint statement agreeing to pursue "complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."
CHINA
Punggye-ri Nuclear test site
50 km
50 miles
NORTH KOREA
Yongbyon Nuclear facility
Sea of Japan
Pyongyang
DMZ
SOUTH KOREA
Seoul
Source: AP, DPA, BBC
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

Maybe they should have called this Hyundai the Somnolent

2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport.
TNS

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport

- **Base prices:** $24,950-$37,200
- **Engines:** 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- **Horsepower:** 240
- **Torque:** 260 pound-feet
- **Fuel type:** Regular
- **EPA fuel economy (city/highway):** 19/24
- **Wheelbase:** 106.3 inches
- **Length:** 185 inches
- **Cargo capacity:** 35.4-71.5 cubic feet
- **Curb weight:** 3,624-4,107 pounds
- **NHTSA rating:** 5 stars

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

American car buyers are enamored of crossovers, a clever bit of hucksterism that starts with an ordinary vehicle that excites no one, such as a compact sedan, and exchanges its body shell for one with a vaguely SUV-like shape. Next, a part-time all-wheel drive system is added, and the vehicle is named something outdoorsy or western sounding. Suddenly, it's far easier to sell despite a price that's thousands more than a sedan. And consumers willingly pay it.

What buyers typically get in return is a rolling Quonset Hut of suburban somnolence, a banal vehicle designed to deliver comfort and cargo space, not driving excitement. Its biggest surprise is no surprise. For most of us, that's fine. After all, vanilla is still America's bestselling ice cream flavor, while beige, gray and white are this nation's top choice for house paint. So it's no surprise that if you look down your cul-de-sac, you'll see that the modern American driveway is one dreary nod to crossovers' artless maturity, free from exuberance or imagination.

Which brings us to the 2018 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport. The big news for 2018 is the addition of a $1,900 Value Package, which provides such niceties as heated power side mirrors, proximity key, pushbutton start, seven-inch display, Android Auto/Apple CarPlay, dual automatic climate control, power driver seat, heated front seats, front fog lights and roof rails.

It's nestled in an interior that's modern, up-to-date, easy to use and pleasingly roomy for the vehicle's size, although the punishingly hard seats rival economy class airplane seats for comfort. And, surprisingly, there's enough tire and road noise to ensure passengers can't hear each other at highway speeds. Then again, maybe you don't want to hear what others have to say.

The Santa Fe's infotainment system is intuitive, although its screen seems small. The audio system delivers acceptable sound, but the embedded navigation system is abysmal. No matter how you adjust the settings, it will direct you to the longest, slowest route. Better to use your smartphone navigation app. The panoramic sunroof helped, since you could use the stars for navigation. Besides, it enhanced the cabin's open, airy feeling.

Motivating the Santa Fe Sport is a 185-horsepower 2.4-liter four-cylinder or a 240-horsepower turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder mated to a six-speed automatic transmission with front-wheel or all-wheel drive. Eco, Normal and Sport modes are optional, and each adjusts the throttle and transmissions response, although it seems to make little difference. Yet the turbo engine provides plenty of thrust—as well as noticeable turbo lag, the interminable pause between pressing the throttle and the moment when the turbo spools up and provides power. But it's more than enough for most motorists. The ride is fairly comfortable without undue body motions. Cornering reveals expected body lean, but it's not out of line for the segment. Steering feels responsive and accurate, although the turning circle seems a little wide for the size of the vehicle. Fuel economy was an unremarkable 21 mpg in mostly highway driving.

Safety and driver assistance features meet federal requirements but go no further, which is disappointing considering the test vehicle's eye-popping $38,000-plus price tag.

If you're considering towing, the Santa Fe Sport is rated for 2,800 pounds with the 2.4-liter, 3,500 pounds with the turbocharged 2.0-liter.

More impressive was the roomy cargo hold, which measures a sizeable 35.4 cubic feet with the rear seats in use, 71.5 cubic feet with them folded.

But this model is a short timer; a new Santa Fe Sport is coming for 2019, when it will simply be called the Santa Fe. Meanwhile, the three-row Santa Fe becomes the Santa Fe XL when they go on sale this summer. The 2019 Santa Fe addresses many of the 2018 model's shortcomings, including an impressive array of driver assistance features, a large infotainment screen and more space, although drivelines remain unchanged.

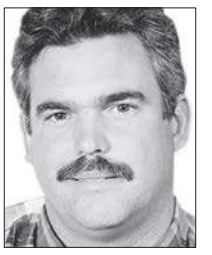
The Santa Fe Sport ably and tastefully performs its expected duties. Like too many other crossovers, the Santa Fe Sport is functional but artless. It doesn't reward your spirit; it numbs it.

Color it gray or beige.

Larry Printz is an automotive journalist based in South Florida. Readers may send him email at TheDrivingPrintz@gmail.com.

Under the Hood: Under the Hood: Further thoughts on diagnosing motorhome's drivability problem

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service



Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

I want to take a second swipe at David's intermittent motorhome drivability problem (discussed last week) because it may further convey some of the difficulties and concerns and possible solutions getting a tough issue resolved with a modern vehicle.

David lives in Oregon at a considerable distance from the four Ford dealerships in his entire state that service Class A motorhomes, so it is difficult for him to bring it in to look at this intermittent problem over and over. The other issue is that a dealership that performs warranty repairs is not reimbursed by the manufacturer unless it actually performs a listed labor operation, and typically the time it takes to duplicate an intermittent fault or perform lengthy diagnostic time may be not compensated. A fault that can't be duplicated at the time of service is a nightmare for all involved!

As a former GM dealer shop foreman, I would often drive a customer's vehicle home and back as if it were my own for perhaps a week or more until I was lucky enough to encounter the situation with the appropriate diagnostic tool in hand. David's problem is so erratic/intermittent that multiple dealers have failed to encounter the fault or take action to look very far in to it.

One of the pitfalls of automotive lemon laws is it makes the dealer reluctant to attempt a repair unless there's a documentable reason to proceed, and a potentially favorable outcome, as it counts as strike one, two or three in a potential buy-back case. It makes complete sense as a business decision to say "NTF" (no trouble found) instead of trying something helpful. I wonder if the doghouse (engine cover) was ever lifted.

David's frustration and fears of a safety concern due to power loss has him contemplating a lemon-law buy-back case. Oregon's automotive lemon law is less favorable to consumers than some in other states, and even if he prevailed, he'd be facing a significant ($20K) financial loss (vehicle is bought back at depreciated value).

I had recommended a Ford VCM-2 customer flight recorder be temporarily loaned and attached, but the dealer and Ford corporate both declined to step up. Yesterday my students Brian and Jesus drilled deep into the $70 Autel ML529 scan tool I just purchased for personal use, and to share in class, and found it has a data recording feature! I never would have imagined such an inexpensive tool would do this. The ML529 is an upgrade for the previously recommended ML519 tool. Perhaps David might take matters into his own hands, purchasing such a tool and taking a movie of the 25 or so available OBD-II generic parameters the next time the symptoms surface (scanner is previously connected and awaiting a "record" command).

Two caveats: The OBD-II data list is not nearly as extensive as the manufacturer's tool, and the recording is only of the time after being triggered, as opposed to before/during/after on a manufacturer's tool. About half the fuel cost for another dealer repair attempt, and it may get David on base with justification for additional diagnostic procedures due to a captured irregular parameter!

Another recommendation, especially considering the inconvenience, fuel costs for repair attempts and potential financial loss of a buy-back, is to throw perhaps $500 at this in diagnostic time for a really sharp dealer or independent diagnostic tech to physically burrow in, checking PCM (powertrain control module) power and grounds, and critical sensor inputs, using a graphing multimeter or lab scope as the motorhome is driven and connectors are wiggled. Sometimes an intermittent fault leaves little clues even when it's not acting up large. Physical inspection of connector seating and pin-fits and wiring harness routings are also prudent, as this problem showed up before the wheels even left the parking lot when purchased as a new vehicle.

The fault may lie somewhere between the coach builder and the Ford chassis/powertrain as a build boo-boo. Reimbursement may be a long-shot but a solid fix is a game-changer for enjoying the motorhome as it should be. Look for a tech with ASE Advanced Engine Performance L-1 certification, these are the best at what they do!

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Antonia Maria Villagomez Ierome

"Tona"

Born to Life: September 8, 1968 - Called to Eternal Home: April 22, 2018

In her new life, she now joins:

Parents	Manuel Seman Villagomez & Luise Pangelinan Villagomez
Parents-in-Law	Niu Nu'uiali'i Iakopo Ierome & Talatalaga Fua Niu Ierome
Brother	Joseph Pangelinan Villagomez
Reared Sister	Bernadita Basa Mendiola

Her beautiful spirit and loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband	Jerome I. Ierome
Daughter	Hope Liliouakalani Villagomez Ierome
Reared Children	Martha B. Mendiola & Alexander M. Standish (Donaven, Ava, Madex, Deion)
	Elena B. Mendiola (Elicia, Dre)
	Donald B. Jr. & Yuko Mendiola (Nalu, Irie, Rina)
	Steven B. & Maggie C. Mendiola (Aleighana)
Siblings	Linda V. & Felix B. Cepeda
	Patricia V. & Juan B. Cepeda
	Thomas P. Villagomez & Nicolasa B. Babauta
	Barbara V. & Joseph D. Wesley
	Manuel P. Villagomez, Jr.
	Edward P. Villagomez
	David P. Villagomez, Kalena Yim, Randy King, & Oat King
	Nora V. & Raymond DLG. Borja
	John P. & Jeanette T. Villagomez
	Ramona V. & John A. Manglona
In-Laws	Seiuli Elisapeta & Lele'a Sefulu Ponausuia
	Ali'ioaiga Salamasina & James Traywick
	Temukisa & Gabriel Vladimir Jimenez
	Saena & Samuelu Fruean
	Papali'i Iakopo & Tini Ierome
	Suaese & Lesli Iakopo
	Nu'uiali'i Vaa'alotasi & Lahine P. F. Ierome
	Mafa "Maya" Ierome

She will be dearly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018. Our Beloved Tona will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30 am. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by Interment Service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Life & Style

'Infinity War' opens with record $250M, passing 'Star Wars'

NEW YORK (AP)—A whole lot of superheroes added up to a whole lot of ticket sales. The superhero smorgasbord "Avengers: Infinity Wars" opened with predictable shock-and-awe, earning $250 million in box office over the weekend and edging past "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" to set the highest opening weekend of all-time.

"Infinity War," which brings together some two dozen superheroes in the 10-year culmination of Marvel Studio's "cinematic universe," also set a new global opening record with $630 million even though it's yet to open in China, the world's second-largest movie market. It opens there May 11.

According to the Walt Disney Co.'s estimates Sunday, "Infinity War" overwhelmed the previous global best ("The Fate of the Furious" with $541.9 million) but narrowly topped "The Force Awakens" in North America. The "Star Wars" reboot debuted with $248 million in 2015, which would translate to about $260 million accounting for inflation.

But both intergalactic behemoths belong to Disney, which now owns nine of the top 10 opening weekends ever—six belonging to Marvel releases. That includes "Black Panther," which has grossed $1.3 billion since opening in February and still managed to rank fifth at this weekend's box office, thanks partially to Marvel fans self-programming a double-feature.

The track record for Marvel, along with the hyper, extravagant effort put into the long-planned "Infinity War," made the record-setting weekend something of a fait accompli. After ten years, 18 prior films and some $15 billion in box office, the weekend was an assured and long-awaited coronation for Kevin Feige's Marvel, the most dominant force in a Hollywood with precious few sure things.

AP

This image released by Marvel Studios shows, from left, Tom Holland, Robert Downey Jr., Dave Bautista, Chris Pratt and Pom Klementieff in a scene from "Avengers: Infinity War."

"To have now the biggest movie of domestic history as one of the Marvel cinematic universe films seems like a fitting tribute to the Marvel Studios team which has had just an astounding, unmatched run in the last decade," said Dave Hollis, head of distribution for Disney.

By any measure, the 2-hour-and-40 minute-long "Infinity War" is one of the largest films ever assembled. With a production budget reportedly almost $300 million, Joe and Anthony Russo's film brings together the stars of Marvel's superhero stable, including Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man, Chris Hemsworth's Thor, Chadwick Boseman's Black Panther, Chris Evans' Captain America, Mark Ruffalo's Hulk, and many more.

It was shot over 18 months back-to-back with a sequel due out next summer. Marvel spent years laying the groundwork for the big showdown, teasing its villain (Josh Brolin's Thanos) since 2014. The result earned positive reviews (84 percent fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and an A CinemaScore from audiences. All but one of Marvel's 19 cinematic universe releases has scored an A CinemaScore.

As if to further stamp its pronounced enormity, "Infinity War" was also the first film shot entirely with IMAX cameras. (Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk" was mostly shot on IMAX.) IMAX screenings accounted for a record $41 million of the weekend's global ticket sales. Greg Foster, head of entertainment for IMAX Corp, said the success of Marvel stands apart from Hollywood's other mega franchises.

"This isn't something that their parents saw. This isn't an old franchise that their parents saw when they were 20," said Foster. "This is theirs. The Marvel universe is the group of characters that this generation owns."

No new wide releases dared to compete with "Infinity War," which played at 4,474 theaters in North America. In a very distant second place was John Krasinski's "A Quiet Place" with $10.7 million in its fourth week. With $148.2 million in total ticket sales, the Paramount Pictures thriller had topped the box office three of the last four weekends.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore, credited Marvel with the potent lead-up to "Infinity Wars" with "Spider-Man: Homecoming," ''Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2," ''Thor: Ragnarok" and "Black Panther"—all successful and well-reviewed entries.

"This brought the world together this weekend," said Dergarabedian. "That's what these movies do: They remind us why we love going to the movie theater. A movie like this shows the singular and unique experience of going into a movie theater."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "**Avengers: Infinity War**," $250 million ($380 million international).
2. "**A Quiet Place**," $10.7 million ($6.6 million international).
3. "**I Feel Pretty**," $8.1 million ($1.4 million international).
4. "**Rampage**," $7.1 million ($16.2 million international).
5. "**Black Panther**," $4.4 million.
6. "**Super Troopers 2**," $3.6 million.
7. "**Truth or Dare**," $3.2 million ($2.8 million international).
8. "**Blockers**," $2.9 million ($1.6 million international).
9. "**Ready Player One**," $2.4 million ($8.6 million international).
10. "**Traffik**," $1.6 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "**Avengers: Infinity War**," $380 million.
2. "**Us and Them**," $88.8 million.
3. "**Rampage**," $16.2 million.
4. "**A or B**," $15.2 million.
5. "**Ready Player One**," $8.6 million.
6. "**A Quiet Place**," $6.6 million.
7. "**Peter Rabbit**," $5.3 million.
8. "**Taxi 5**," $3.8 million.
9. "**Genghis Khan**," $3.4 million.
10. "**The Trough**," $2.9 million.

Trump gives thumbs-down to comic who roasted his spokeswoman

WASHINGTON (AP)—The reviews are in: President Donald Trump gave a thumbs-down Sunday to the comedian who roasted his chief spokeswoman at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner, offending present and past members of his administration, including one who walked out in protest.

The organization's leader said she regretted that Michelle Wolf's routine may end up defining an evening that was designed to rally around journalism.

WHCA President Margaret Talev said she has "heard from members expressing dismay with the entertainer's monologue and concerns about how it reflects on our mission." She said she will work with the incoming president of the group and take comments from members on their views "on the format of the dinner going forward."

Trump joined in the criticism.

"Everyone is talking about the fact that the White House Correspondents Dinner was a very big, boring bust...the so-called comedian really 'bombed,'" Trump tweeted Sunday.

The president, who regularly lobs sharp attacks at the news media, including individual news organizations and reporters, declined to attend the journalism awards dinner for the second consecutive year. He instead held a campaign rally in Michigan.

Wolf is known as a contributor on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah." But some of her jokes, particularly a series of barbs about White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders as Sanders sat just feet away, seemed to spark the most outrage.

Sean Spicer, who preceded Sanders at the White House lectern, tweeted after dinner that the night "was a disgrace."

Others, including Ed Henry, chief national correspondent for Fox News and a former association president, and MSNBC's "Morning Joe" co-host Mika Brzezinski, called on the association to apologize to Sanders. Brzezinski has been the subject of personal attacks by Trump. Henry also called on Wolf to apologize.

Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union, tweeted that he and his wife, Mercedes Schlapp, director of strategic communications at the White House, walked out of the dinner. "Enough of elites mocking all of us," he said.

Talev, Bloomberg News' senior White House correspondent, said she didn't want a dinner celebrating the constitutional right to free speech to be overshadowed by the ensuing uproar over Wolf's jokes.

"My only regret is that to some extent those 15 minutes are now defining four hours of what was a really wonderful unifying night and I don't want the cause of unity to be undercut," Talev said Sunday on CNN's "Reliable Sources."

Talev said she spoke to Sanders after Wolf's routine and "I told her that I knew that this was a big decision whether or not to attend the dinner, whether to sit at the head table and that I really appreciated her being there."

"I thought it sent an important message about the role of government and the press and being able to communicate with one another and work together," Talev added.

No Trump administration officials attended the dinner last year after Trump decided to skip it. Many were in the audience Saturday night, however, including counselor Kellyanne Conway, herself a target of Wolf, and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. Sanders sat at the head table with association board members.

Talev said that, by tradition, the association does not review the comedian's monologue before it is delivered.

"We don't censor it. We don't even see it," she said.

Wolf tweeted "thank you" to Spicer.

As he did last year, Trump flew to a Republican-friendly district to rally supporters in an attempt to counter the dinner. He assured the audience in Washington Township, Michigan, a state he won in 2016, that he'd rather be there than at "that phony Washington White House Correspondents' Dinner."

Wolf's act, which also included abortion jokes, had some in the audience laughing. Others sat in stony silence.

Convicting America's Dad: Inside the Bill Cosby prosecution

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—In the tense moments before a jury convicted Bill Cosby of sexual assault, the prosecutor who had branded him a "con man" and called him out for laughing during closing arguments started to worry about the global implications if the #MeToo era's first big trial went the other way.

Accuser Andrea Constand's allegations that Cosby had drugged and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004, revived out of nearly a decade of dormancy by another comedian's viral joke, had coalesced into a movement of women who said he violated them, too.

Prosecutor Kristen Feden told The Associated Press she was "nervous for Andrea and for sex crime victims as a whole" at Cosby's retrial.

"I felt like this verdict could dictate something more," Feden said. "If they found him not guilty, I felt like they were feeding into every character assassination on sex crime victims."

Feden and prosecutor Stewart Ryan spoke to the AP on Saturday about the nearly three-year journey from reopening the Cosby case to last Thursday's verdict, how they restructured their approach after last year's hung jury and the sacrifices they faced along the way.

Cosby, 80, is now a prisoner in his own home and faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life behind bars as he awaits sentencing within the next three months on three counts of aggravated indecent assault. He has maintained his innocence. His publicist has declared his conviction a "public lynching," and his lawyers have vowed to appeal.

But Feden, Ryan and their boss, District Attorney Kevin Steele, said they are confident Cosby's conviction will stand.

Prosecutors started thinking about a retrial as last year's deliberations wore on for six days, Ryan said.

"We could kind of see the writing on the wall with the first jury," he said.

Two days after Cosby's conviction, law books and papers were still strewn on a long table in the war room where

AP
In this April 18, 2018 file photo, Bill Cosby arrives for his sexual assault trial at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

prosecutors plotted their strategy: leading off with an expert to educate the jury in victim behavior, successfully fighting to call five additional accusers and fending off the defense's allegations that Constand was a scammer framing Cosby for a big payday.

The additional accusers allowed prosecutors to uncloak the man once revered as America's Dad as a manipulative predator who used his built-in trust to trick women into taking powerful intoxicants so he could violate them. One woman pointedly called Cosby a "serial rapist," and another asked him through her tears, "You remember, don't you, Mr. Cosby?"

Feden said she felt "that needed to be exposed."

"That was the most sickening part of this all," she said. "When people in positions of power use that power to victimize people, I find that to be beyond disgusting."

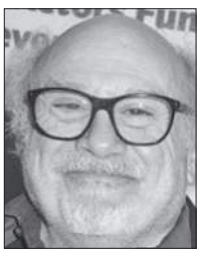
Then-District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman reopened the Cosby investigation in July 2015 after a federal judge, acting on a request from the AP, unsealed portions of Cosby's deposition testimony from a civil lawsuit he settled with Constand in 2006 for $3.4 million. In the testimony, which was read to jurors at both trials, he described giving quaaludes to women before sex in the 1970s and his encounters with Constand, a Temple University women's basketball administrator.

Ryan likened Cosby's description of a purported sexual encounter with Constand to "reading some disgusting pornography novel." He said the testimony, far more explicit than what Cosby said in his lone police statement, showed "exactly what's going on" in his mind.

Feden questioned Constand. Ryan cross-examined star defense witness Marguerite Jackson. Together they delivered a closing argument that wrested the "con artist" label from the defense and pushed back at suggestions the case was outside the statute of limitations.

Danny DeVito gets his own day in his native New Jersey

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (AP)—Danny DeVito has gotten his own day in his native New Jersey.



DeVito

The Asbury Park Press reports the Asbury Park City Council honored the actor Saturday night by declaring his birthday, Nov. 17, as "Danny DeVito Day" in his hometown.

The honor was announced as DeVito appeared at the Asbury Park Music and Film Festival.

DeVito starred in the classic TV series "Taxi" and films including "Twins" and "Batman Returns." He starred in the hit comedy "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia."

The 73-year-old was born in Neptune Township and raised in Asbury Park.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy also spoke at the festival, saying: "Danny has never forgotten where he came from."

'The Dam Busters' director Michael Anderson dies at 98

LONDON (AP)—British director Michael Anderson, whose films included war epic "The Dam Busters" and sci-fi classic "Logan's Run," has died at age 98.

Anderson's family said Sunday that he died of heart disease April 25 in Canada, at his home on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia.

Born into a theatrical family in London in 1920, Anderson served in the army during World War II and made his feature debut in 1949 with "Private Angelo," co-directed by Peter Ustinov.

His 1955 adventure "The Dam Busters" told the story of a daring wartime bombing raid on Germany's industrial heartland. Its visual flair and stirring score helped make it one of Britain's best-loved war films, and its thrilling climax helped inspire the attack on the Death Star in the first "Star Wars" movie.

AP
In this on Dec. 10, 1964, file photo, film director Michael Anderson talks with Sophia Loren on the set of "Operation Crossbow" at MGM's British Studios at Elstree in Borehamwood near London, England.

"The Dam Busters" is due to be broadcast at London's Royal Albert Hall and in 400 U.K. movie theaters on May 17 to mark the 75th anniversary of the real-life 1943 raid that inspired it.

Anderson followed "The Dam Busters" with the big-budget, all-star adventure "Around the World in 80 Days," which won five Academy Awards in 1957, including best picture.

He made some three dozen features in all, including thrillers "Operation Crossbow" and "The Quiller Memorandum."

"Logan's Run," his 1976 sci-fi film about a youth-obsessed future society, has become a cult classic.

Nurse knocked into emotional tailspin by cancer

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago, I was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. I'm only 34. That's what I keep repeating to myself—I'm only 34. I feel lost. I'hm mad at God and have lost my faith. I keep wondering "Why me?" "Why my family AGAIN?" "Why stage 4?" I cry alone in an empty house because I don't want to stress out my kids and my husband.

The support groups are 30 minutes away and feature mostly breast cancer patients and survivors. I'm a nurse, and I feel out of control. All my decisions are being made when I'm unconscious or barely out of anesthesia. My world has been turned upside down. I'm not hanging on well at all. Because my control is slipping, I have lost my grasp on the person I once was. I was a strong woman. I don't know what to do. Help!

NURSE WHO IS NOW THE PATIENT

DEAR NURSE: Right now you are feeling vulnerable, which, under the circumstances, is normal. You should not be crying alone or isolating yourself as you have been doing. You need more emotional support than the support group you belong to can give.

It may help you to contact the American Cancer Society because it provides support and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to those facing cancer. Trained cancer specialists are available via phone or live chat and can offer you not only accurate, up-to-date information, but also connect you with valuable services and resources. The phone number to call is (800) 227-2345, and the website is cancer.org. Please don't wait to reach out. My thoughts are with you.

DEAR ABBY: My in-laws take frequent vacations and ask my husband to dog-sit. He always says yes. They are gone seven to 10 days at a time and I don't think we should feel obligated to always agree. My husband says that since we're family it's our duty.

Abby, they can well afford to kennel their dogs, and I don't think they'd be offended if we said no. But my husband thinks I'm heartless for being OK with his parents' dogs staying at a kennel for so long. I maintain that it's not my problem.

This disagreement comes up every two to three months (every time we have the dogs). I am not willing to do this anymore. I'm not sure how to discuss this topic because, so far, nothing I have said has gotten me results. We already have dogs of our own, and kids as well, and the additional dogs disrupt our routine.

FREE PET SITTER

DEAR SITTER: For your in-laws to expect you to take care of their dogs every time they decide to leave town seems excessive. However, I can understand why they would prefer not to kennel the dogs if they can leave them in a home environment instead.

Because it bothers you, rather than try to dissuade your husband from being so agreeable, tell him he can dog-sit at his parents' house, or from the moment the dogs arrive they will be his sole responsibility. And then stick to it.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

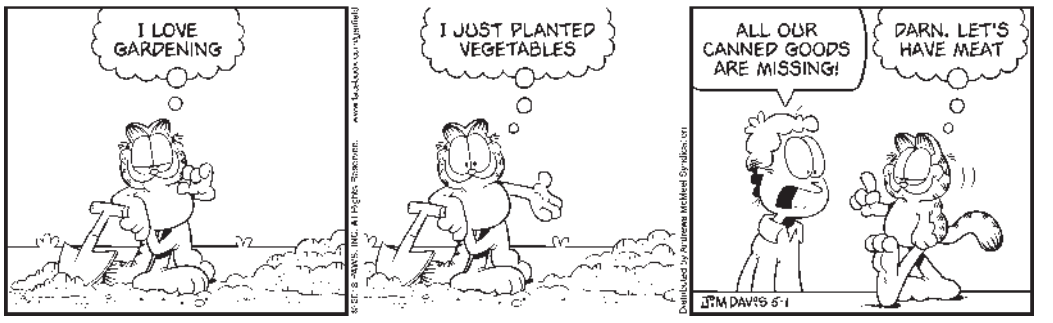
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE BEEN READING UP ON PALEONTOLOGY. IT'S AMAZING STUFF.
SCIENTISTS CAN TELL HOW OLD SOMETHING IS JUST BY ANALYZING THE LAYERS OF DIRT IT'S IN.
HEY!
WHY, YOU MUST BE SIX YEARS OLD.
OH, YOU'RE A SCREAM.

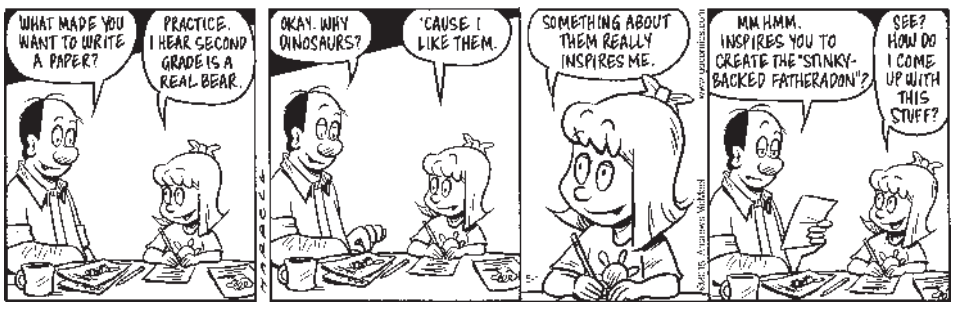
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



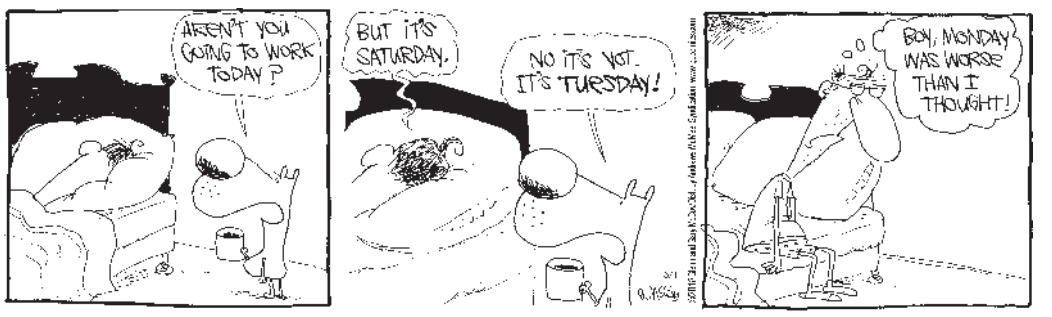
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO WRITE A PAPER?
PRACTICE. I HEAR SECOND GRADE IS A REAL BEAR.
OKAY. WHY DINOSAURS?
'CAUSE I LIKE THEM.
SOMETHING ABOUT THEM REALLY INSPIRES ME.
MM HMM. INSPIRES YOU TO CREATE THE "STINKY-BACKED FATHERADON"?
SEE? HOW DO I COME UP WITH THIS STUFF?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tide variety
5 Quotable Berra
9 Bottom line
12 Rights advocacy org.
13 Power co. supply
14 "Am — blame?"
15 Monopoly, for one
17 Weep
18 Autograph
19 Cool veggies
21 Managed somehow
24 Brooks' singing partner
25 "The Haj" author
26 Coastal area
30 Stimpy's pal
31 Haunting
32 Cattle call
33 Rooming house guests
35 Mexican money
36 Equitable
37 Tightwad
38 Battle line
40 Motel amenity
42 Not 'neath
43 Go — (do more than necessary)
48 Rushmore face
49 Ceremony
50 Dull sound of impact
51 Vegas lead-in
52 Back talk
53 Deadly septet

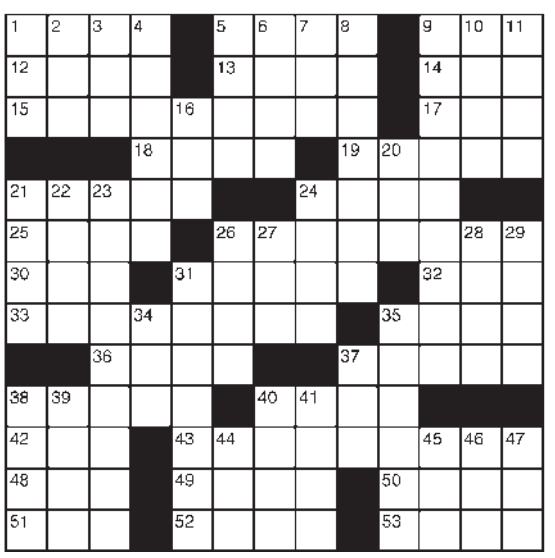
DOWN

1 Arrest
2 Author Umberto
3 Carte lead-in
4 Derby prizes
5 Safecracker
6 "The Good Earth" heroine
7 Jewel
8 Water cooler?
9 Monikers
10 French 101 verb
11 Playpen pile
16 Carried out
20 Popular card game
21 Street edge
22 Crunchy cookie
23 Sleeveless smocks
24 Lectern locale
26 Crystal gazer
27 Blunder
28 American Beauty, e.g.
29 Entryway
31 Magazine bigwigs
34 Scooted
35 Aviators
37 Wild bunch
38 Baby horse
39 Ms. McEntire
40 Favorites
41 Raw materials
44 By way of
45 Sashimi fish
46 Scamper
47 License to drill?

Solution time: 22 mins.

L	O	O	P	■	S	C	I	■	C	A	B	S
F	T	R	U	S	C	A	N	■	I	I	L	S
S	T	A	L	W	A	R	T	■	N	F	C	N
■	■	■	S	A	N	■	F	I	F	C	T	S
■	E	N	E	■	■	C	R	A	M	■	■	■
A	L	A	S	■	R	A	M	P	A	R	T	■
N	I	P	■	S	E	M	I	S	■	O	O	H
■	E	A	R	H	A	R	T	■	E	M	M	A
■	■	■	W	■	L	Y	■	A	R	A	B	S
S	A	L	A	M	I	■	A	L	E	■	■	■
O	M	E	N	■	G	O	L	F	C	A	R	■
D	E	A	D	■	N	O	M	A	T	T	E	R
A	N	K	A	■	S	P	A	■	S	L	A	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wes Anderson, 49; Tim McGraw, 51; Joanna Lumley, 72; Judy Collins, 79.

Happy Birthday: You'll feel passionate about reaching the goals you set this year. Your drive and determination coupled with quality performance will not deny you the success you crave. Put your priorities in order and do not deviate from your plans. Your relationships with the people headed your direction will be instrumental in getting the support you need. Your numbers are 9, 13, 20, 27, 38, 41, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Think before you jump into something that may end up limiting you down the road. Listen to good advice, and consider what influence your decisions will have on friends and family. Don't make choices due to anger or frustration. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* How you treat others will dictate the response you receive when you want something. An open and honest approach to what you are trying to accomplish will help bring people on board, making your objective easier to obtain. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* A problem with a group you are involved with will sprout due to evasive information or misinterpretation. Your charm will help you draw people to your side, but if you cannot deliver what you promise, the support you gain will quickly disperse. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Taking a different approach to your job or how you handle others will improve your popularity. Getting along with others and being willing to compromise and adjust to the way the world is changing around you will alleviate stress and frustration. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll have an interesting encounter or conversation, but don't be misled by empty promises. Be prepared to go it alone, and if anyone pitches in to help, it will be a bonus. Own what you do and take credit for your accomplishments. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An emotional problem will surface if you oppose a personal or professional partner. Listen carefully; take care of any unfinished business that might slow the progress you are trying to make. Positive change will require effort and time. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take care of yourself emotionally, physically and financially. Your relationship with others must be based on equality, not giving in to accommodate others. Keeping the peace can be accomplished, and everyone can maintain equality while doing so. Speak up about what you want to see happen. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Physical changes that you have wanted to make will occupy your mind. Don't fall for hype regarding a procedure/investment that can do the impossible. Proper research will be essential. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Share your feelings with someone you love. The plans you make will bring about positive changes at home. Altering your living space to accommodate a new addition will bring you joy as long as you don't overspend. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll be given options, and with proper care and consideration, you will find the best route to take in order to satisfy your needs as well as the needs of others. Home improvements and stronger relationships will lead to good fortune. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll be eager to bring about change and to improve your chance to get ahead professionally or financially. Question anyone offering too much or trying to persuade you to take a risk. Invest in yourself, not someone else. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't be tempted by someone using flirtatious means to convince you to get involved in something that isn't to your benefit. Look for an opportunity to use what you have to offer; you will get ahead financially. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, adventuresome and playful. You are intense and progressive.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2	5			4		
	3		7		8		5	
1				6				9
	7						8	2
		4				6		
3	8						9	
2				5				7
	9		2		1		6	
		8			6	1		

Difficulty Level ★★ 5801

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	9	6	4	1	8	2	3
8	1	6	2	9	3	4	7	5
2	4	3	8	5	7	6	9	1
5	6	2	7	1	8	9	3	4
3	9	7	4	6	2	5	1	8
1	8	4	9	3	5	2	6	7
6	2	8	3	7	4	1	5	9
9	3	1	5	8	6	7	4	2
4	7	5	1	2	9	3	8	6

Difficulty Level ★ 45

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CAYMUS WINE **Solution: 10 letters**

T	J	R	R	O	V	A	L	F	G	R	A	P	E	S
A	E	E	E	M	M	O	L	O	G	O	(T)	L	S	S
S	N	N	O	O	D	R	I	N	K	(I)	T	A	D	A
T	N	G	R	J	A	R	G	A	(M)	T	P	U	N	L
I	Y	A	K	E	N	T	H	(E)	O	N	I	V	E	G
N	H	W	P	C	B	O	T	B	L	A	N	C	L	L
G	N	I	G	A	U	A	N	H	C	I	R	E	B	I
N	E	I	L	R	A	H	C	G	S	O	D	E	A	E
I	Y	R	N	L	A	F	C	L	I	N	R	L	O	L
M	R	R	M	E	O	N	E	E	A	V	L	K	V	O
R	O	L	E	T	D	R	C	F	L	I	U	A	Y	S
A	L	L	N	N	R	R	N	H	N	B	L	A	T	R
F	O	E	U	A	I	I	A	A	O	L	A	E	S	E
R	C	S	B	P	Z	W	V	G	E	R	U	T	A	M
S	E	S	E	E	H	C	D	Y	C	I	P	S	T	F

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Aging, Aroma, Barrels, Bean, Blanc, Blends, Bottle, Cabernet, Charlie, Cheeses, Chuck, Color, Cork, Drink, Emmolo, Farming, Flavor, Garden, Glass, Grapes, Jenny, Joe, Leaf, Light, Logo, Lorna, Mature, Menu, Mer Soleil, Pass, Pear, Rancho, Rich, Ripe, Sauvignon, Scent, Sell, Spicy, Table, Tasting, Tasty, Time, Valley, Vanilla, Vino, Wagner, Winery, Zinfandel

Yesterday's Answer: Women's Ice Hockey

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA 2018-006

OPENING DATE: May 01, 2018 • **CLOSING DATE:** June 01, 2018 • **TIME:** 4:30 P.M.

SALARY: $45,000.00 to $54,193.00-per annum
UNGRADED

Office Manager

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Acting Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **Jesse S. Palacios**
Corporate Director

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We have immediate openings for career minded individuals who offer skills and abilities in direct sales Successful candidates will inform and educate homeowners on the benefits of solar energy.
Our firm has been in the Energy business for over 40 years with the past 6 years calling the CNMI home. Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc.-CNMI is the Islands leading solar energy company with over 400 installations. MRE team in every department of professionals continue to provide the Island with lower energy bills at the most competitive pricing, lowering the Islands energy costs while helping to reduce the Islands Dependence on Fossil Fuel.
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- Educate customers about the benefits of going green
- Analyze and anticipate a prospective customer's solar knowledge and needs
- Create and present various proposals to potential customers

JOB REQUIREMENTS
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- Must demonstrate professionalism when interacting with customers, clients and team members
- Must have "track record" for success as demonstrated by previous work experience
- Strong mathematical skills including critical thinking and problem solving
- Inside/Outside sales experience preferred
- Proficient in Microsoft Office- Capable to work individually and in a team environment

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TAGA SPORTS
APRIL - JUNE 2018 EDITION

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issuu.com/tagasports

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION: Under arrest

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Pirates' Kingham breaks 50-plus year record in debut

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Nick Kingham carried a perfect game into the seventh inning in his major league debut to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates to their fifth straight win, 5-0 over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Kingham, a 26-year-old rookie right-hander, retired 20 straight before Paul DeJong singled down the left-field line with two outs in the seventh. He finished with one hit and nine strikeouts on 98 pitches (72 strikes) after being recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis earlier in the day.

The Elias Sports Bureau said no pitcher in the Expansion Era— since 1961—had taken a perfect game bid so far in his debut. Wayne Simpson of the Reds in 1970 and Ken Cloude of the Mariners in 1997 each set down their first 16 batters.

Kingham joined Johnny Cueto as the only pitchers in the last 100 years with one hit allowed, at least nine strikeouts and zero walks in a debut.

Luke Weaver (2-2) took the loss after allowing four runs and six hits with six strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings.

Yankees 2, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Gary Sanchez hit a two-run homer, CC Sabathia pitched seven effective innings and New York won its ninth straight game.

Sanchez launched a pitch from Tyler Skaggs (3-2) in the fourth inning into the stands in left field for his seventh homer.

Red Sox 4, Rays 3

In Boston, Sandy Leon hit a go-ahead RBI single with two outs in the eighth inning against Tampa Bay closer Alex Colome (2-3), helping the Red Sox snap the Rays' eight-game winning streak.

J.D. Martinez had four singles and drove in two runs for the Red Sox, but misplayed a fly ball into a double that put runners on second and third in the eighth before Craig Kimbrel (1-1) struck out Brad Miller to end the inning.

Cubs 2, Brewers 0

In Chicago, Tyler Chatwood pitched seven sparkling innings and helped himself with an RBI single, leading the Cubs to a sweep of the four-game series between NL Central rivals.

Chatwood (2-3) allowed two hits, struck out four and walked three in his second straight win.

Orioles 5, Tigers 3

In Baltimore, Substitute starter Pedro Alvarez hit two home runs, Trey Mancini had a solo shot and the Orioles beat the Detroit Tigers for their first home series win of the season.

Kevin Gausman (2-2) allowed one run and five hits over 5 2/3 innings for the Orioles.

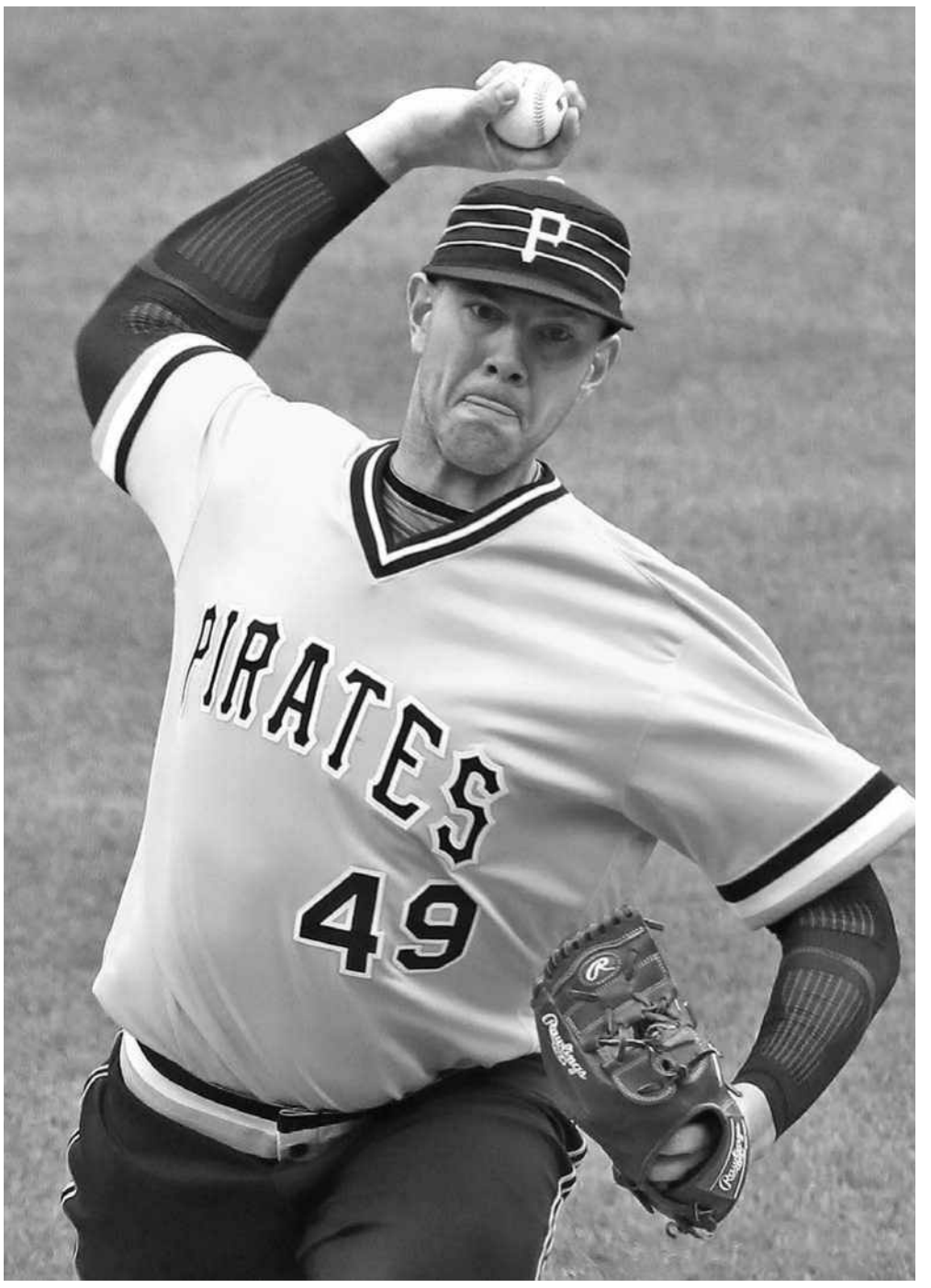
Blue Jays 7, Rangers 2

In Toronto, Kevin Pillar homered for the third time in two games, J.A. Happ (4-1) pitched seven innings to win his fourth straight decision and the Blue Jays beat the Texas Rangers to avoid a three-game sweep.

Teoscar Hernandez and Yangervis Solarte added solo homers off Martin Perez (2-3).

Mariners 10, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Ryon Healy hit two home runs and had four RBI, Robinson Cano and Mitch Haniger also homered, and the Seattle Mariners defeated the Indians.



AP

Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Nick Kingham delivers during the sixth inning of his first major league start in a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals in Pittsburgh, Sunday, April 29, 2018.

Marlins 3, Rockies 0

In Miami, Caleb Smith allowed two hits in seven innings for his first career victory, and the Marlins took the rubber game of their low-scoring series against Colorado.

Smith (1-3) struck out nine and walked one in the longest outing of his career.

Braves 10, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Ronald Acuna Jr. doubled twice and reached base four times to cap a successful first week in the majors, and the Atlanta Braves cruised with a new lineup to a victory over the Phillies.

Acuna hit second behind 21-year-old Ozzie Albies.

Nationals 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Washington, Gio Gonzalez struck out eight over seven strong innings, Matt Wieters and Michael A. Taylor homered and the Nationals beat the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Diamondbacks lost starter Robbie Ray to a strained oblique muscle in the second inning.

Astros 8, Athletics 4

In Houston, Gerrit Cole struck out 12 while working into the seventh inning, George Springer and Jose Altuve each drove in two runs and the Astros beat the Oakland Athletics.

Cole gave up three runs and six hits and walked none in 6 2/3 innings.

Reds 8, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Tyler Mahle pitched into the seventh inning in another impressive start, Jose Peraza had three hits and Adam Duvall homered, leading the Cincinnati Reds past the Twins.

Mahle (2-3) cruised through the Twins' lineup in his second straight solid outing.

Royals 5, White Sox 4

In Kansas City, Cheslor Cuthbert homered twice and drove in four runs as the Royals won consecutive games for the first time this season.

Brandon McCarthy (2-0) picked up the victory, while Blaine Boyer logged his fifth career save.

Mets 14, Padres 2

In San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez homered, doubled and drove in five runs against his former team, and Zack Wheeler struck out nine in five innings for the New York Mets.

The 14 runs and 19 hits were season highs for the Mets.

Giants 4, Dodgers 2

In San Francisco, Evan Longoria hit a three-run homer in the first inning and Ty Blach made the early lead stand up for the Giants.

Blach (2-3) pitched into the seventh inning and allowed two runs.

Griffin steals show, but Seahawks show commitment in draft

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Shaquem Griffin deservedly received the bulk of the attention when the Seattle Seahawks drafted the star linebacker with one hand in the fifth round and reunited him with his twin brother Shaquill.

But aside from Griffin's selection, general manager John Schneider and coach Pete Carroll made clear the Seahawks intent to re-establish the core tenants of how they want to play: run the ball, play aggressive defense and rely on field position.

It started in the first round with the selection of San Diego State running back Rashaad Penny and continued through the nine selections made.

After an eventful offseason that's seen Seattle overhaul its coaching staff and say goodbye to some key veterans, the Seahawks needed to have a successful draft. Recent drafts have been filled with more misses than hits and started to catch up with Seattle last season when the depth wasn't there to overcome key injuries.

AP

In this Jan. 27, 2018, file photo, South Squad outside linebacker Shaquem Griffin of Central Florida gestures during the first half of the Senior Bowl NCAA college football game in Mobile, Alabama.

"We feel like we made great decisions all the way through and we'll see how it goes. You always feel that way right after," Schneider said.

The end may be near for the longest-tenured Seahawks player.

Seattle traded up in the fifth round to draft Texas punter Michael Dickson, who left school early for a chance at the NFL. Dickson was regarded as the top punter available in the draft and could be a sign that Jon Ryan's tenure in Seattle is coming to an end. Ryan has been with the team since 2008 and has two years left on his contract with Seattle but counts $3.2 million against the salary cap in 2018 and $3.6 million in 2019.

Both Carroll and Schneider insisted Ryan will be part of the punting competition.

Dickson averaged 47.4 yards per punt as a junior, was a two-time Big 12 special teams player of the year, and was the Ray Guy Award winner in 2017. Perhaps most impressive, Dickson was the MVP of the Texas Bowl victory over Missouri after downing 10 of his 11 punts inside the 20-yard line.

"He can do stuff with the ball we haven't seen yet so we're really intrigued to see how that translates," Schneider said.

Seattle continued to focus on improving its run game on offense by drafting Washington tight end Will Dissly in the fourth round.

"We thought he was the best blocker in the draft," Carroll said.

LeBron stays perfect in first round as Cavs advance

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James wasn't ready to go home or to Philadelphia or Los Angeles.

He's heading to Toronto, bringing a Cavaliers team that isn't done yet.

Unwilling to sit despite battling leg cramps in the second half, James scored 45 points and got some much-needed help from his teammates in Game 7 to stay unbeaten in the opening round of the NBA playoffs, leading the Cavaliers to a 105-101 win on Sunday over the Indiana Pacers, who pushed the game's best player to the breaking point.

Following the game, an exhausted James said the series took a physical toll.

"I'm burnt right now," he said. "I'm not thinking about Toronto right now until tomorrow. I'm ready to go home. Can we? I'm tired. I want to go home."

James added nine rebounds, seven assists and played over 43 minutes while improving to 13-0 in the first round. He kept Cleveland's strange season alive—for the time being—but it took everything the 33-year-old and the Cavs had to hold off the Pacers, who came in confident after a 34-point win in Game 6.

But James, who at times seemed to be playing the Pacers by himself in the series, pulled the Cavs back from the brink of elimination and at least delayed any more talk about impending free agency.

"Amazing," Indiana's Victor Oladipo said of James. "He did what he always does. It's not really shocking. He's the best in the world, and that's what the best does and now I gotta work to get on that level."

The Cavs will open the conference semifinals on Tuesday at top-seeded Toronto.

Early in the game, James looked at agent Rich Paul sitting courtside and told him he wasn't coming out. James then played the first 35 minutes before heading to the locker room with one minute left in the third to be treated for what he said was "a little minor injury." James said he was urged to get IV fluids but turned them down.

Nothing was going to keep James off the floor in what some Cleveland fans feared could have been his last game with the franchise.

He fought through the fatigue. He had no choice.

"It felt like a Game 7," he said. "It was like, your mind is thinking like, `OK, besides the two I played in the Finals, you start thinking like, is this it? Could this be it?' That's just human nature. And then the other side of my brain was like, `Let's go make something happen. Let's go, that's what you here for. You're here to make plays, you're the leader."

The Cavs got a huge lift from Tristan Thompson, who played just 24 minutes in the first six games but made a rare start as Cavs coach Tyronn Lue used his 34th different starting lineup this season. Thompson added 15 points and 10 rebounds, Kevin Love made four 3-pointers, and George Hill returned after missing three games with back spasms to score 11 in 19 second-half minutes.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) drives to the basket against Indiana Pacers' Myles Turner (33) in the first half of Game 7 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Sunday, April 29, 2018, in Cleveland.

Rockets 110, Jazz 96

In Houston, James Harden proved once again that Utah's vaunted defense was no match for him.

Harden scored 41 points and the Houston Rockets raced out to a huge lead and sailed to a 110-96 win over the Jazz in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals on Sunday.

Houston was up by 25 at halftime behind 34 points combined from Harden and Chris Paul. The Jazz, who didn't wrap up their first-round series with Oklahoma City until late Friday night, looked sluggish and struggled to keep pace with the top-seeded Rockets, who hadn't played since eliminating Minnesota on Wednesday.

The Jazz tied for second in the NBA in the regular season by allowing just 99.8 points, but failed to stop Harden in any of their meetings. Harden, who also had seven assists and eight rebounds, picked up where he left off in the regular season against the Jazz when he averaged 34.3 points, led by a 56-point performance in a 137-110 win in November.

"Their defense is really good—their defense is super," Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said. "But James is James."

Utah coach Quin Snyder seemed at a loss as to how to limit the MVP front-runner, who had the sixth 40-point playoff game of his career.

"He's a special player," he said. "It's hard to give credit to all the things that he does. He just impacts the game in so many ways. You have to try to make it harder for him."

It was Houston's fourth straight win by 10 or more points this postseason, and the Rockets have won their five games against the Jazz by an average of 16.8 points.

"We're different," Harden said. "We've seen so many different defenses throughout this year that have prepared us for this moment."

Messi makes hat trick, Barca clinches title

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—While steering Barcelona to its 25th Spanish league crown, Ernesto Valverde led a quiet revolution at the Catalan powerhouse.

Ever since Johan Cruyff stamped his style on Barcelona as a player and coach, the club has shown disdain for sacrificing beautiful displays of attacking football for something as pragmatic and mundane as the final score.

That changed slightly in Valverde's first season in charge at Barcelona.

Lionel Messi was still there to work his magic at Camp Nou. But Valverde, a former Barcelona player and successful manager at several clubs, gave priority to winning matches through a balanced approach, even at the cost of not continuing the flashier collective play under predecessors Luis Enrique and Pep Guardiola.

It's hard to argue with the outcome. Barcelona never faltered in its march to the title and broke a Liga milestone set by Real Sociedad in 1980 by going 39 matches without a loss dating back to the end of the last campaign. It is currently 42 matches unbeaten in the league.

Barcelona clinched the title with a 4-2 win over Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday, completing a domestic double for the eighth time in club history only a week after routing Sevilla 5-0 in its best performance of the season to claim a fourth consecutive Copa del Rey.

And with four matches remaining, Barcelona has the chance to become the first team to go through all 38 rounds without losing in the competition since the 1930s, when the league only had 10 teams compared to the current 20.

Eight months ago, Barcelona looked anything but championship material.

The Catalan club was reeling from the shock departure of Brazil star Neymar after Paris Saint-Germain tapped its Qatari owners to pay a world-record 222 million euros ($262 million) to trigger his buyout clause in August.

Fans' worst fears regarding the impact of Neymar's exit seemed to be confirmed when Barcelona was then trounced in both legs of the Spanish Super Cup by Real Madrid.

Celtics, Sixers renew rivalry with new casts in East semis

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid are about to find out what the NBA playoffs are really about.

After dispatching the Miami Heat in five games in the first round in their first career postseason appearance, the Philadelphia 76ers' youngsters will open the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night in Boston against the Celtics.

All those banners hanging from the Garden rafters.

All that history on the parquet floor.

All that bad blood between the two cities.

A civic rivalry that dates back to the Revolutionary War era came of age on the basketball court with Wilt Chamberlain leading the Philadelphia Warriors, and later the 76ers, against Bill Russell's Celtics in the 1960s. Larry Bird and Julius Erving picked it up in the 1980s.

Celtics forward Marcus Morris, a Philadelphia native, grew up watching the Allen Iverson-led 76ers that went to the NBA Finals in 2001 but lost to Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker's Celtics in the Eastern Conference finals the following year.

He's not expecting any favors from his hometown crowd.

"I'm expecting the same treatment as far as them not even caring that I'm from Philadelphia," he said after practice on Sunday, a day after the Celtics advanced by eliminating the Milwaukee Bucks in Game 7 of their first-round series. "I really don't care either, when I'm competing against them."

The franchises have met 19 times in the playoffs (though only three times in the past 33 years), with Boston holding a 12-7 edge.

Two years after winning just 10 games, the Process is paying off for the 76ers.

Embiid, the third overall pick in 2014, returned after missing the first two games of the playoffs and averaged 18.7 points and 10.3 rebounds in three wins over Miami.

Simmons, the No. 1 overall pick in 2016 before missing all of last season, averaged 18.2 points and 10.6 rebounds against the Heat -- both improvements over his regular-season numbers.

Masga did not disappoint in ROP 23

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Vince "The Clinch" Masga, top, rains down punches and elbows on Sang Hyun Park of South Korea in one of the two semi-main event fights in last Friday's Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown at the Marianas Business Plaza.

Trench Tech fighter Vince "The Clinch" Masga held his own against a taller Sang Hyun Park in last Friday's Rites of Passage 23: Beatdown at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Masga fought in one of two the semi-main event bouts and did not disappoint fight fans, giving it all inside the eight sides. He defeated Park via technical knockout with 2:21 left in the second round, giving the local warrior his fourth straight win and improving his fight record to 7-1. His lone loss was against Ricky Camp in ROP 16: Unleashed, four years ago.

It was Park's first defeat after three matches in ROP events and also first overall in four fights. He won his debut in Top Fighting Championship 12 in September 2016 when he topped compatriot Hyun Woo Park via rear-naked choke in 3:43 of the first round.

For his fourth fight, Sang Hyun Park had the clear height advantage against Masga, but the local warrior compensated that with his speed and skills in ground fighting. Masga, who has a purple belt in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu, showed his Korean foe that he's no pushover and went toe-to-toe against Park. He worked his way against Park, throwing punches and kicks to open up the Korean's defense.

Park also had his moments and managed to thwart Masga's repeated attempts to take him down. At one point, Park pinned down Masga at the corner and worked his way for an arm bar submission. But, thanks to his jiu-jitsu training, Masga was able to wiggle out of harm's way and went for a stand up fight against Park. He took down Park and went for a submission victory, but the latter was saved by the bell.

It was almost the same story in the second round with Masga connecting several kicks to Park's side. He immediately took down his opponent once he saw an opening and began to throw punches to Park's head.

The Korean tried to defend and covered his face to shield himself from Masga's rain of punches and elbows. Seconds later, referee Mike Ulloa stepped in and stopped the fight, as Park was just lying down and doing nothing to retaliate against Masga's blows.

Park protested, but Ulloa stood by his earlier decision, as fighter's safety always comes first. The Korean, besides absorbing a loss, had several bruises on his face and a cut in the lower lip and left eye brow.

Office of the Governor to sponsor CNMI's first disability sports festival

The Office of the Governor and the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse are collaborating to jumpstart the CNMI's first Disability Sports Festival for athletes from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The event will be held in partnership with the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the Council on Developmental Disabilities, Center for Living Independently, Voices of the CNMI, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the Northern Marianas College University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Division of Public Health Services, Ayuda Network, Community Guidance Center, Rotary Club of Saipan, Office of Youth Affairs, the Division of Youth Services, and the Public School System.

OGM administrator Epi Cabrera, Jr. shared that the CNMI Disability Sports Festival will be funded through a $70,000 sub-grant under the Office of the Governor to provide sporting opportunities to 15 participants from Tinian and Rota each and 40 eligible participants from Saipan.

"This is a large collaborative undertaking to celebrate and bring together and highlight developmental disabilities and the diversity that exists in our community. I met with Nick Gross who serves as the athletics program director at the Public School System and informed him of the funding opportunity to bring this event to the community, especially as the Lady Diann Torres Foundation had approached our office with the project idea a year ago," Cabrera said.

Recollecting her years as an educator, Diann Torres expressed that students with disabilities are often forgotten after they leave the education system.

"I reached out to the agencies who have been there from the beginning and have championed the rights of our brothers and sisters with disabilities. We've come together to create awareness and to celebrate our diversity. This is just one of many initiatives and along with the vision of a One-Stop Disability Center, we can improve upon and align the initiatives of all disability partners and stakeholders," Diann Torres said.

Gross expressed his excitement for the project.

"I am enthusiastic with the whole project, especially as the planning and implementation of a Paralympic / special Olympic type of event is underway and pegged for this July 2018," Gross said.

"Working closely with NMPASI, we produced a proposal for the event and have been very excited by the overwhelming support of collaborating agencies to make this a reality. Overall, this will serve as a goodwill participatory celebration focusing on adaptive sports. This event will serve as an awareness campaign to identify sustainable funding to ensure this event continues on an annual basis," Gross added.

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres expressed that from years of discussing disabilities and addressing needs, he commended the disability network for coming together to bridge a gap and fulfill something that has not been done before in the Commonwealth.

For more information about joining the Disability Sports Fest, please contact Jim Rayphand at NMPASI at 235-7273. ***(PR)***

FIELDERS

From Page 28

Cabrera moved to third after that missue, setting up Deleon Guerrero's game-winning hit. Deleon Guerrero, on a 1-2 count, took Maratita's next pitch behind a gap at left field with the ball getting past the Falcons' infielders.

Cabrera then started running after Deleon Guerrero's hit, unmindful of the fact that either the third baseman or the shortstop could take the grounder and make the throw to first base. Cabrera and the rest of his teammates began their celebration, as soon as the ball hopped and went past the Falcons' infielders.

Henry Fleming lasted six innings on the mound for the Fielders and was tagged with one earned run on six hits, while striking out six and walking two batters.

Dizon pitched in the seventh, forcing leadoff batter Nixon Smith to fly out to right field before recording consecutive strikeouts against Mark Norita and Joel Norita, respectively.

Braves 15, Comets 0

Tyress Camacho tossed a three-hit game, while Boss Camacho had two RBI walks in the Braves' shutout win.

Tyress Camacho had seven strikeouts and walked two in five innings. He gave up back-to-back hits to Darvince Manalo and Mark Castro in the second inning.

Kiana Aldan was the other Comets player that recorded a hit—a single in the third inning—against Tyress Camacho, while J.P. Celis was the lone batter that had three hits in the game, going 3-for-4 with two runs.

MPU

From Page 28

his first shot from left center. Abragan, on the other hand, took only one attempt, as he sneaked past his defender from left mid and released the shot just before TanHoldings left center defender moved in.

After the sorry loss, TanHoldings had a sort of consolation, as Borja's shot brought the team's total goals for this season to 37—the most by any team in the division. MP United had the second best with 36, but gave up the least (4). The rest of the teams in the U18 age group yielded 11 or more goals this season.

Meanwhile, Matansa closed out its campaign in the division on a positive note after beating Kanoa, 2-0.

Joshua Deleon knocked in the pair of goals for Matansa, which finished the competition with a 3-2-3 record for third place. Kanoa dropped to fourth with its 3-0-5 mark, while National Development Team finished last after losing all its eight games this season.

In other results last Saturday, MP United outlasted Southern United, 2-1, to finish third in the girls U15 division.

The consolation match at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field went the distance as the game was in a standoff after the regulation, 1-1. Fiona Bucalig scored for MP United in the 74th minute, while Haidee Manibusan nailed the equalizer for Southern United in the first minute of the injury time.

A goal from Audrey Castro in the 82nd minute finally ended the tie and handed MP United the third place finish.

TWIN

From Page 28

foiled the latter's bid for a third consecutive title in the division. Steele topped the 2018 White Coconut Tennis Classic in February and the 2018 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last month.

Heo joined Paik to the Final Four after topping Jae Hoon Son, 6-2, 6-4, and Eubin Park, 6-1, 6-1. Park faced Heo in the Round of 8 following his 6-1, 6-1 triumph over Brandon Lee.

Kang, at the lower half of the draw, eliminated Anthony Gregoire, 6-1, 7-5, and Andy Kim, 6-1, 6-4, to barge into the finals. Gregoire set up a meeting with Kang after 6-1, 6-1 win over Seung Won Lee, while Andy Kim made it to the semis following his 6-1, 6-3 victory against Hyunmin Cho, who defeated Joey Hong in the opening round, 6-0, 6-0.

In the boys U12 singles, Kwon lorded it over in the 11-player field, securing the division title after trouncing Juncheol Hwang in the finals, 6-2, 6-0. Kwon did not drop a single set en route to winning the competition in his group, as he earlier swept Danny Jeong, 6-2, 6-0, and Nason Wessel, 6-0, 6-0. Wessel marched into the semis after prevailing against Bang Jun Gyewong, 6-0, 6-1, while Jeong earned a quarterfinals berth following his 6-2, 6-3 win over Jun Yu at the top half of the draw.

At the bottom half, Hwang, before bowing to Kwon, also booted out his opponents after only two sets. He blanked Kojiro Kaga, 6-0, 6-0, and then downed Lahunn Lam, 6-1, 6-4. Kaga won over Andy Lee, 6-2, 6-1, to move into the quarterfinals, while Lam slipped past Ruma Lee, 6-1, 2-6, 11-9, to notch a semis slot.

KONQER Saipan: Flame & Fortune

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

A member of the Bank of Guam Team Warriors jumps to ring the cowbell at the finish line during last Saturday's KONQER Saipan: Flame & Fortune at the Kilili Beach Park.

Team Marianas Health members take their time in getting past the Broken Bridge.

Men's Enduro division champion Tyce Mister raises his hands to ring the cowbell at the finish line.

Two youth participants attempt to keep their balance in the Broken Bridge obstacle course.

A member of Tribe Marianas Honeybadgers uses the rope to go down from The Monster.

Team Pacific Islands Club members try to get over the Up & Down obstacle course.

Team Tao Tao Bud members head to the next obstacle course.

An Enduro division participant takes on the Incline Bar 2.

Pirates' Kingham breaks 50-plus year record in debut

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron stays perfect in first round as Cavs advance

PAGE 25

Unbeaten MPU bags U18 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club kept its undefeated record intact en route to ruling the boys U18 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

MP United completed the double-round robin contest with a 7-1-0 win-draw-loss record following a 3-1 victory over rival TanHoldings FC last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field. Anthony Fruit, Sunjoon Tenorio, and Joshua Abragan scored in MP United's title-deciding win, while Taka Borja made the lone goals for TanHoldings.

Going into the final weekend of the league, TanHoldings, which then held a 5-1-1 mark, needed a win against MP United to force a playoff for the division championship. An early goal from Borja in the 11th minute boosted TanHoldings' chances for a tiebreaker and the team kept the shaky lead at the break, as MP United failed to cash in on its repeated attempts.

When the game resumed, TanHoldings continued to frustrate MP United until a pivotal hand ball call against the former allowed the latter to score and gain momentum. Dai Podziewski let go off a kick from left center and the ball hit the arm of one of TanHoldings defenders. Fruit took the penalty kick and converted the straight lower right shot, as TanHoldings goalie John Bucayo reached in, but could not make the save.

The time when Fruit hit the penalty kick was not recorded, along with the shots of Tenorio and Abragan, but they came past the halfway mark of the 40-minute second half. Tenorio put MP United on top, 2-1, when he went for a follow-up from right center after Bucayo deflected

See MPU on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United Football Club, right, and TanHoldings players engage in a footrace as they go after the ball during the second half of their boys U18 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Twin wins for Schorr

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Robbie Schorr makes a backhand return to Sean Lee during their boys U16 singles semis game in the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan hard courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Oceania Junior Davis Cup Team member Robbie Schorr had a double celebration last weekend after winning a pair of titles in the 2018 PIC Tennis Championships.

Schorr, who suited up for the region's elite squad and competed in the 2018 Junior Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Qualifying Finals in Malaysia last month, first bagged the boys U16 singles crown in the Pacific Islands Club Saipan-sponsored event after beating perennial rival Ken Song in the finals, 6-2, 6-4.

The 16-year-old Schorr moved into last Sunday's championship game at the PIC hard courts following a 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Sean Lee, who made it to the semis after ousting Eugene Park, 6-2, 6-1.

Song, on the other hand, labored a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Ji Min Woo to arrange another title showdown against Schorr. The eventual runner-up also came from a hard-earned 4-6, 6-1, 10-7 win against Seung Jin Paik to set up a semis duel against Woo, a 6-0, 6-0 victory against Daniel Heo.

After his title conquest in the singles play, Schorr returned to the PIC courts a few hours later and teamed up with CNMI Junior National Team coach Jeff Race in downing the father-and-son tandem of Dong Min and Sean Lee in the men's open doubles finals, 6-2, 6-0.

Meanwhile, in other results in the boys singles competition, David Kwon and Paik ruled the U12 and U14 divisions, respectively.

Paik clinched the boys U14 singles title after sweeping Daniel Kang in the finals last Sunday, 6-0, 6-4. It was Paik's third straight runner-up finish for the 2017-2018 season, while Paik got his second singles crown in the age group after prevailing in the 2017 TanHoldings Tennis Classic last November.

The two-time champion marched into the finals as he outclassed Isaac Heo and Richard Steele in the upper half of the draw in similar scores, 6-0, 6-2, and shut down Danny Lee, 6-0, 6-0. Paik's victory over Steele in the quarterfinals

See TWIN on Page 26

Fielders beat Falcons on walk-off hit

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Dennis Cabrera scored the winning run on a walk-off hit to lift the Fielders to a pulsating 4-3 win over the Falcons in the Senior League division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

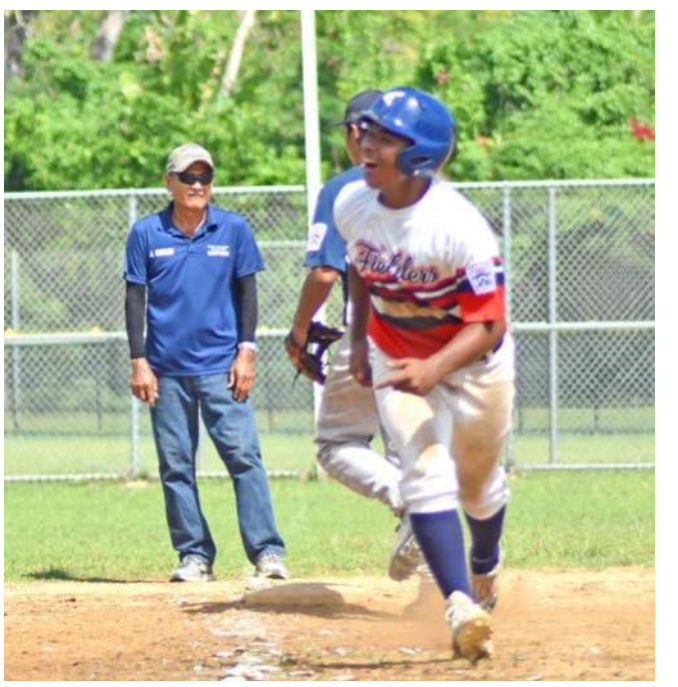
The Fielders were down 3-2 after 6 1/2 innings, but breaks of the game went their way, indirectly, thanks to a bold move by Falcons manager Manny Evangelista, who decided to bring in Pedro Maratita to the mound.

The Falcons needed only three outs at the bottom of the seventh inning when Evangelista opted to replace Arby Yaguel after the latter gave up a leadoff single to Austin Sanchez, who later tied the game on an Anthony Dizon sacrifice fly.

Yaguel also allowed Deleon Guerrero to score on a Travon Lieto fielder's choice in the sixth for a 3-2 count, but the Falcons' relief pitcher got out of a jam behind the team's defense.

Back at the bottom of the seventh, Maratita, who forced Dizon to a sacrifice fly for the first out, allowed a single to Cabrera, while Ignacio Mendiola was safe on base on a Falcons throwing error.

See FIELDERS on Page 26



JON PEREZ
Dennis Cabrera starts to celebrate while running to home plate for the winning run in the Fielders' 4-3 victory over the Falcons in the Senior League division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.